

Lebanon to take over refinery

NICOSIA (AP) — The Lebanese government will take over operating the Zahran oil refinery near the southern port of Sidon next month, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday. The authoritative weekly, published in Nicosia, said that Industry and Oil Minister Victor Kasir informed the Mediterranean Refining Co., which has operated the refinery since 1984, of this in a letter after the company decided to quit war-torn Lebanon. MEES said Mr. Kasir told Medreco that its decision to halt operations in Lebanon from Sept. 30 means "all its movable and immovable assets would revert to the Lebanese government without payment of any compensation." Medreco is owned by Mobil Oil and Caltex. Zahran reverted to the Lebanese government in December, 1983, after the Trans-Arabian Pipeline Co., or Tapline, closed down its operations in Lebanon and ceded all its installations to the government.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراي

Volume 11 Number 3248 AMMAN, TUESDAY AUGUST 19, 1986. DHUL HILJEH 14, 1406

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King sends good wishes to Indonesia, India and S. Korea

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday sent a cable of good wishes to Indonesian President Suharto on the occasion of Indonesia's Independence Day. The King wished Mr. Suharto happiness and good health and the Indonesian people further progress and prosperity. The King also sent similar cables to Indian President Zail Singh and South Korean President Chun Hoo-Dwan on Friday on the occasion of India's Independence Day and South Korea's National Day.

3,000 cases handled by Al Bashir Hospital during 'Eid holidays

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 3,000 cases were handled by the Al Bashir Hospital's first aid and emergency section during the 'Eid holidays. Most of the cases were caused by diarrhoea, road accidents and other accidents (See related story on page 3). Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh visited Al Bashir Hospital during the holidays and inspected the various sections and progress of work there.

Reagan sends letter of support to Aquino

MANILA (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan expressed strong support for "this democracy in the Philippines" in a letter to President Corazon Aquino, U.S. Senate leader Richard Lugar said Monday. Emerging from a two-hour luncheon meeting with Mrs. Aquino, Mr. Lugar described her as "a strong leader" and said he expects Americans to demonstrate "an outpouring of emotions" for her when she visits the United States Sept. 15-23, Mr. Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, arrived at noon for a three-day visit.

Third World opens Cairo talks

CAIRO (AP) — Delegates from 77 Third World countries attended the opening session Monday of a conference aimed at reviewing their five-year-old economic cooperation programme and discussing future plans. The delegations are part of the so-called Group of 77, created two decades ago by developing countries from Africa, Asia and South America to discuss common problems in light of the global economy. The grouping had 77 members when it was founded. The number now has grown to 127. Fifty nations were absent when the conference opened Monday.

Iranian oil minister heads for Moscow

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh left Tehran for Moscow Monday to discuss joint oil and gas projects with the Soviet Union, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency said Mr. Aqazadeh headed a delegation of oil ministry and gas company officials.

Harare fears S. African attack during NAM summit

HARARE (AP) — A prominent politician says he fears that South Africa will bomb Zimbabwe during the upcoming summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Maurice Nyagumbo, minister of cooperatives and administration secretary of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union, told party supporters Sunday in the town of Harare that South Africa would seek to sabotage the conference because it would focus on Pretoria's racist apartheid policies. The eighth summit of the 101-member, Non-Aligned Movement opens Sept. 1 in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital.

Soviet-Israeli talks break off after 90 minutes in Helsinki

Moscow withholds comment but Israel says to continue diplomatic contacts

Combined agency dispatches

HELSINKI — Talks between the Soviet Union and Israel, the first official contact between the two countries in 19 years, broke off after 90 minutes on Friday with the Soviet government withholding immediate comment and an Israeli spokesman saying contacts would continue through diplomatic channels.

A Soviet source confirmed that the talks had been broken off unexpectedly. The source, who demanded anonymity, said he had no further information, AP said.

The Soviet embassy said the Soviets would have no immediate comment on the outcome of the talks.

The sessions had been scheduled to last two days, and Israel had sent foreign ministry Deputy Director-General Yehuda Bar-On to Helsinki to advise the delegation.

However, Israeli delegation spokesman Ehud Gol told a news conference that the talks had been "candid and concrete." But, he said, the two delegations had

agreed one session was sufficient to air their views.

"We will be continuing our contacts with the Soviet Union through normal diplomatic channels," he added.

He said that the possibility of reciprocal visits to Moscow and to Israel had been discussed, and a decision would be taken on the issue by the two governments "in due course."

"We did not set an agenda in advance for this meeting and we therefore did not know how long it would take. In the event, both sides agreed one session was sufficient," Gol said.

The Israeli spokesman disagreed when asked if the talks

had been a failure, saying contacts had been established and would now continue elsewhere.

He said that his team had presented a written briefing on the position of Jews in the Soviet Union who, according to Israeli officials, wished to emigrate to Israel.

Gol said the delegation had also presented a paper on Jewish prisoners and on the situation in the Middle East.

"We received no reaction from the Soviet team, they merely took away our written submissions," he said.

The decision to cut off the talks was seen as a set-back for both sides. It appeared likely that the session broke off before even the agenda could be agreed upon.

The talks were the first formal discussions between the two countries since the Kremlin severed ties with the Jewish state 19 years ago.

The closed-door session was held under tight security at the Finnish government compound, guarded by groups of blue-uniformed police.

The three Israeli and two Soviet

(Continued on page 3)

Ship ablaze off UAE coast in escalated 'tanker war' in Gulf

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iran on Monday attacked shipping in the Gulf for the second day running and Iraq reported its warplanes had also struck again in the bitter "tanker war."

Shipping sources in the region said an Iranian attack set ablaze the 109,880-tonne supertanker Akarita about 50 nautical miles off the coast of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Several missiles slammed into the vessel at about 0815 GMT, one piercing a fully laden oil hold in the bow and starting a fire.

An Iranian helicopter raid on Sunday on the 10,316-tonne Panama-flag Wealek 3, a chemical tanker, killed two seamen and wounded three, shipping sources said.

It was also hit near the UAE

coast. The Akarita, partially in ballast, had been due to fill its other holds with crude from an offshore terminal in Dubai's Fateh oil field.

Announcing Iraq's attack Sunday night, an Iraqi military spokesman told Baghdad Radio Iraqi aircraft dealt the target "an accurate and effective hit" shortly before midnight. There was no independent confirmation.

The latest Iranian attacks followed a devastating Iraqi air raid last week on Iran's Sirri Island oil terminal, which damaged three tankers and killed at least 16 seamen.

Sirri was Iran's main oil export outlet and vital for its funding of the six-year-old war with Iraq.

A U.S. government spokesman has blamed Iran for the

intensification of the Gulf war and urged it to negotiate an end to the conflict with Iraq.

"This conflict need not continue," said State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman. "Unfortunately Iran has chosen to ignore the many international calls for a resolution to the war."

The war is the fault of the "intransigence of Iran's leaders" while Iraq seeks a negotiated solution, he said.

Iraq said on Sunday two more civilians were killed and four wounded in Iranian shelling of its southern port of Basra.

The city of about one million has been shelled almost every day this month and Iraqi officials say dozens of civilians have been killed.

Rebels claim downing of Sudanese plane

KHARTOUM (AP) — A Sudanese rebel group on Monday claimed responsibility for shooting down a Sudan Airways passenger plane, and a provincial governor confirmed that all 60 people aboard died.

A radio broadcast by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), monitored in Nairobi, Kenya, said the plane was shot down Sunday near Malakal by members of its "Fashodha Battalion."

The broadcast blamed the deaths on the Sudanese government for ignoring rebel warnings not to fly over rebel-controlled territory.

"The deaths of innocent citizens on the plane rests clearly on the shoulders of the Khartoum government, which turned a deaf ear to our initial warnings," the rebel radio said.

In Malakal, Colonel Simon Manang, governor of Upper Nile province, told the Sudan News Agency there were no survivors aboard the Fokker Friendship plane.

Col. Manang said all the victims, most of them women and children, were Sudanese, and he vowed to make SPLA leader John Garang "pay the price for his savage deed."

Protest paralyzes Khartoum airport, page 2

S. Arabia planning cut in oil output to 4.35 bpd

NICOSIA (AP) — Saudi Arabia plans to reduce its oil production in September by one million barrels a day to 4.35 million barrels daily under the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreement reached in Geneva, an authoritative economic publication said Monday.

The Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Saudi Arabia, like other members of the 13-strong OPEC, is taking measures to curb its oil production in August before the two-month OPEC agreement comes into force Sept. 1.

It noted, too, that heavy damage to Iran's Sirri Island terminal in the Gulf in an Iraqi air raid last Tuesday could also reduce the amount of oil reaching the world market by as much as one million barrels a day.

All these factors, MEES noted, means that OPEC's September production could be nearer to 16 million barrels a day than the 17 million projected in the Geneva accord.

OPEC's members, except Iraq, agreed in Geneva earlier this month to cut production in September and October to the October, 1984, level of 14.8 million barrels a day. Iraq will continue unrestricted production of between 1.9 million and 2 million barrels a day.

With Iraq's output included, the projected OPEC production for September would be about three million barrels a day below its

recent combined output. That free-for-all production level was boosted to compensate for plunging oil prices and glutted the market.

MEES said output by Saudi Arabia in July averaged 5.42 million barrels a day and a daily production of 6.1 million barrels was anticipated for August.

But the Saudis have asked their major lifters, Mobil, Exxon and Texaco, to make voluntary cuts for August, MEES said.

It noted that Shell, which apparently sought a "massive" lifting of 900,000 barrels a day in August, "resisted" a request to cut back output to less than half that level.

The others accepted "with some reluctance," MEES said.

With the reductions, Saudi production was expected to average just above five million barrels a day in August.

MEES said other OPEC members also are trying to cut their September crude output.

"The fact is that deep, often painful, cuts in production are being made, and customers are having to reduce their projected intake," MEES said.

That figure includes Iraq's unrestricted output of around 1.9 million barrels a day.

The cutback will go a long way to compensating for hefty overproduction in June, July and August.

Oil prices fell from \$32 a barrel last November to between \$8 and \$12 a few weeks ago.



JORDAN MARKS 'EID: His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan recite verses from the Holy Quran at the tomb of their grandfather, the late King Abdullah, on the eve of 'Eid Al Adha (The Feast of Sacrifice), and, also on the occasion of the feast. Her Majesty Queen Noor visits a welfare centre in Ashrafieh (See story on page 3)



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Gorbachev extends nuclear moratorium

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev said on Monday the Soviet Union was extending its moratorium on nuclear weapons tests until Jan. 1 of next year.

Speaking on television, Mr. Gorbachev said Moscow was confident that the Soviet Union and the United States could reach agreement on ending nuclear tests at a summit this year.

"That event would undoubtedly be the main real outcome of the meeting, and a considerable step on the road to ending the arms race," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev also challenged U.S. President Ronald Reagan to sign a treaty banning all nuclear testing this year at a summit.

The Soviet Union began its testing moratorium on Aug. 6, 1985, and extended it twice. It was to have expired Aug. 6, the 41st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

But Mr. Gorbachev said the ruling politburo had decided, with difficulty, to prolong the testing ban despite the "tone of alarm" it found in letters from Soviet citizens who were worried the moratorium was hurting national security.

"In taking this step, we believe that people in all countries of the world, political circles and the international public will correctly assess the long silence on the Soviet nuclear test ranges," he added.

He said he was appealing to the dignity and wisdom of Americans not to miss once again "the historic opportunity" to abandon nuclear tests and end the arms race.

Mr. Gorbachev last March proposed a special summit with Mr. Reagan in a European capital to negotiate an end to nuclear tests. In May he suggested that the meeting could take place in Hiroshima.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev agreed when they met in Geneva last November to hold a second summit in the United States this year but the date has not yet been fixed.

Mr. Gorbachev said modern military technology was developing so fast that it would one day prove impossible to reach arms control agreements.

"The situation is becoming ever more intolerable," he said. "Major practical steps are required that would be capable of reversing the course of developments for the better."

He said the Soviet Union had undertaken the moratorium because, as a nuclear power, it believed its supreme duty was to ensure the peaceful future of the planet.

Mr. Gorbachev and other Soviet officials have made the moratorium a central issue in pronouncements on arms control, hinting that an agreement to curtail testing could help the two sides reach an agreement on scheduling the next U.S.-Soviet summit.

Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Reagan agreed in Geneva last November that they would meet again this year in the United States, but the Soviets have delayed setting a date.

They have said they want assurances first that the meeting will lead to concrete progress in arms control.

Mr. Gorbachev's speech followed a special two-day meeting near Moscow between top-level Soviet and U.S. arms-control negotiators.

New Irbid Deputy Abu Al Sha'ar to seek better level of public services

By Salameh B. Ne'matt

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

IRBID — Dr. Nader Abu Al Sha'ar, the newly-elected member of the Lower House of Parliament, said Monday that he would soon start contacts with deputies in the House "to get a sense of the mechanisms used for tackling problems" and serving his constituents.

Dr. Abu Al Sha'ar, a surgeon, secured 14,172 votes to win Thursday's by-election in Irbid. It was the fourth election since parliament was reconvened in 1984. His closest rival, Judge Turki Haddad, came second with 13,949 votes while Sami Haddad was third with 1,213 votes.

"My main concern is improving the level of services to the people," Dr. Abu Al Sha'ar, 45, told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview. "I'm about



Dr. Nader Abu Al Sha'ar

to start contacts with my colleagues in the House to see the extent of their cooperation on several issues."

Among the main issues, which, he said, were of immediate concern to his constituents were,

agriculture problems in the Jordan Valley — mainly water shortages and marketing constraints. He said the establishment of health centres was of a main concern in the Irbid governorate.

"At this stage," he said, "I'm feeling my way around... there is a lot I need to learn before I start out. But, generally speaking, my job is to make the people's voice heard."

The timing of the by-election, which coincided with the first day of the five-day 'Eid Al Adha public holiday, might have been behind the low turnout, for the by-election, according to observers.

Only 25,334 people went to the polls out of 139,000 registered voters, compared to nearly 40,000 who voted in June for another vacant seat in the same governorate. The fact that the

(Continued on page 3)

Rabin wants NATO status for Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday Israel deserves the same U.S.-ally status enjoyed by the 16 member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Such status would give Israel preferential treatment in military purchasing and contracts with American and West European companies. It would also boost Israeli military production which contributes 25 per cent to the country's annual exports.

Mr. Rabin said the kind of status Israel sought "is defined as non-NATO major ally, privileges that certain countries like Japan, New Zealand and Australia enjoy."

"Israel deserves it and no doubt it will facilitate many of our defence problems," Mr. Rabin said. He also said Israel had "found understanding" in the administration and the Senate for the U.S.

U.S. Vice-President George Bush agreed during a visit here last month to set up a joint team to explore the possibility of extending NATO benefits to Israel.

4 killed while preparing bomb attack at Toulon

TOULON, France (R) — Four people, including an extreme right-wing political activist, were killed on Monday while apparently preparing an anti-immigrant bomb attack, police said.

The four were blown to bits when a car they were driving exploded in a market place in the centre of this French Mediterranean port.

The blast started a blaze which gutted a three-storey building. It also damaged several cars parked nearby and shattered windows in other buildings. There were no other injuries.

"Everything was burned and there were bodies lying on the ground. It was not a pretty sight," said one shopkeeper woken up by the explosion at about 1.30 a.m. (2330 GMT Sunday).

Police said the car appeared to have been carrying up to five kilos of explosives in preparation for a bomb attack in or near the market place, an area inhabited by a large number of Arab immigrants.

They said one of those killed

"I believe it is justified for Israel to get the treatment, the rights" that Greece gets from the United States, Mr. Rabin told 100 American Jewish fundraisers.

Premier Andreas Papandreu has advocated the closure of NATO bases in Greece but so far has not done so.

Mr. Rabin said the Israel and the U.S. had resolved tensions over a series of military-related scandals, the worst of which was an alleged Israeli spy ring run by Jonathan Jay Pollard, a U.S. navy analyst, uncovered last November.

"Relations between the armed forces of our two countries are at their peak," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin said Israel also needed "better understanding and cooperation with the United States" to confront "the risk of war" with Syria.

"The risk of an all-out confrontation is there potentially," said Mr. Rabin.

Mr. Rabin said Syria spends \$3.6 billion annually, not counting Soviet assistance, on its armed forces. Israel spends \$2.6 billion without U.S. aid, said Mr. Rabin.

Israel has received \$1.8 billion in military aid from the United States this year.

Syria, said Mr. Rabin, received sophisticated Soviet weapons "even before they go to Eastern bloc countries." Mr. Rabin also alleged that Syria was building a chemical warfare arsenal with help from European countries which he did not name.

Mr. Rabin later told reporters Israel has "no evidence" that Syria has received any advanced Soviet MiG-29 fighter planes. The Abu Dhabi newspaper Al Itihad reported Sunday that Syria had taken delivery of an unspecified number of MiG-29s.

Mr. Rabin said Israel had information that the Soviet Union was training Syrian pilots to fly the fighters which are considered parallel in capability to the U.S.-made F-15s and F-16s used by Israel.

Once in Syrian hands, the MiG-29s will "add to difficulties in gaining air supremacy," and limit Israeli capabilities to "operate freely against targets on the ground," Mr. Rabin added. He did not elaborate.

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Israel deports 2 Black Hebrews

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel was planning to deport overnight to the United States two American members of the Black Hebrews sect who lost a court battle to remain in the Jewish state, their lawyer said Monday.

Four more Black Hebrews will be put on flights to New York in the next two days, lawyer Mark Leve told Reuters.

In April, Israeli authorities arrested and issued deportation orders to 46 members of the Chicago-based sect that claims to be descended from the Israelite tribe of Judah.

Israel disputes the claim and says they do not qualify for immigrants' status under the "law of return," which grants automatic citizenship only to Jews.

About 1,500 members of the sect have settled in the southern Negev desert in the last 17 years. Efforts to deport them have intensified during the current tenure of Israel's ultraorthodox interior minister, Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz.

Last month, the supreme court rejected an appeal by the 46 to cancel the deportation orders.

Strike paralyses Khartoum airport after missile downs passenger plane

KHARTOUM, Sudan (Agencies) — The International Red Cross (ICRC) suspended relief flights to rebellious south Sudan on Monday and Khartoum airport was virtually paralysed by a strike after a Sudan Airways plane with 60 people was shot down by a missile.

The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) blamed southern insurgents for attacking the Fokker Friendship with a surface-to-air SAM-7 missile as it took off Saturday from Malakal, a provincial capital on the White Nile 750 kilometres south of Khartoum.

The government would not confirm whether any foreigners were on board the twin-propeller plane, which carried 57 passengers and a crew of three. A Western diplomat who saw the passenger list said it appeared no foreigners were on board.

He spoke on condition his name and nationality were not reported. An independent newspaper, Al Siyassa, said 12 children and the Malakal police chief were on board the plane.

Sudanese government officials Monday refused to confirm whether all aboard were dead or to blame the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA), the major rebel group, for the attack.

Salah Abdul Salam, minister of state for cabinet affairs, told reporters the government was awaiting completion of an investigation.

In Cairo, Egypt, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted airline officials as saying there was no sign that anyone aboard survived.

The government, which waited 24 hours before announcing the crash, has been making overtures to the SPLA in hopes of ending the 3-year-old rebellion.

SUNA, quoting eyewitnesses, said a heat-seeking missile struck the plane, which exploded in flames. SPLA units have operated on the outskirts of Malakal for more than a year although the town remains under government control.

The rebels' SPLA radio, monitored Sunday in Nairobi, Kenya, made no mention of the attack, which came one day after the radio warned the rebels would "shoot down any aircraft flying over SPLA-controlled airspace."

Geneva, Switzerland, the International Red Cross announced it had cancelled flights of emergency food supplies to famine-stricken southern Sudan until further notice.

Spokesman Sergio Caccia said the flights, begun last Thursday, would be grounded permanently if the Red Cross confirms that the SPLA plans to target mercy flights.

The British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) said another rebel broadcast specified that the SPLA would attack planes carrying relief supplies to the south, where an estimated two million people face starvation because of food shortages brought on by the rebellion.

The rebels have claimed that the government uses the relief flights to ferry military supplies. SPLA spokesman Dho Achiel in Nairobi said the warning to civilian aircraft was intended to keep foreigners from getting caught up in the fighting.

At Khartoum International Airport, airline employees announced a three-day strike to protest what they termed the lack of safety for planes and delay in reporting the crash. The Employees' Union said crews would not fly to unsafe areas.

An Egyptian flight to Khartoum was cancelled Monday because the strike had crippled airport services.

Late Sunday, Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi ordered the suspension of air traffic to and from the embattled south until

further notice. The government also announced three days of mourning for victims of the missile attack.

The SPLA, backed by Ethiopia, has been fighting in southern Sudan since 1983 for regional autonomy, an end to Islamic Law, and various social, political and economic reforms nationwide.

The people of southern Sudan are mainly Christian and animist. Northerners, who control the nation's government and economy, are Muslim. The Muslims make up about 70 per cent of Sudan's 20 million people.

The south was the scene of secessionist agitation for nearly two decades until 1972, when it was given autonomy on local matters. Fighting broke out again in 1983 after President Jaafar Numeiri divided the autonomous south into three regions and increased the number of northern troops there, moves that southerners believed was in violation of the 1972 ceasefire agreement.

The rebellion gained strength after Numeiri's September 1983 decision to impose Islamic Law on all Sudanese. The conflict has persisted despite the April 1985 overthrow of Numeiri, who seized power in 1969, and the election this year of a civilian government.

The rebels claimed Friday that Sudanese authorities planned a new offensive in the south with the help of an undisclosed foreign power.

Achiel said Sunday that about 13,000 Libyan troops have massed in western Sudan to help the Sudanese government against the rebels, and that a large government force was poised at Juba for a push to rebel-held Bor.

SPLA leader John Garang, a U.S.-educated former colonel in the Sudanese army, said recently that his forces control about 90 per cent of the south.

The government, however, still holds the key towns of Juba, Wau, Torit, Kapoeta, Yei and Malakal. Sudanese rebels Monday reaffirmed their determination to shoot down all planes flying over

southern Sudan but said they were not yet sure that rebels were behind the crash of a civilian airliner on Saturday.

Captain Daniel Kodj, a spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), told Reuters the rebels were still convinced the Khartoum government was using civilian flights as cover for shipping arms and ammunition to army units.

"That's why the warning says. All SPLA units will shoot at planes without exception," Capt. Kodj told Reuters by telephone from the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

Capt. Kodj said the SPLA high command had not received reports of the incident from units in the field, which often remain out of contact with headquarters for long periods.

Poor communications in the three-year-old bush war was the reason behind the blanket warning to all planes, he added. "The units are scattered — we don't have the means to tell them 'don't shoot at this plane or that plane,'" he said.

The rebel spokesman said the SPLA had no objection to international relief for the civilians of the south and had no reason to believe that International Red Cross (ICRC) planes were helping the Sudanese government militarily.

The ICRC suspended an airlift of food from Uganda's Entebbe Airport to the south Sudanese town of Wau last week after the SPLA first issued its warning to all planes.

ICRC officials said a C-130 transport plane was waiting at Entebbe to resume the operation as soon as it received the go-ahead from ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

The international organisation was in touch with the SPLA to win fresh guarantees for the safety of the plane but if these were not forthcoming, it might have to withdraw the plane for financial reasons, they said.

Chirac opposes creation of Palestinian state

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has opened old wounds with outspoken comments on the Middle East conflict which have highlighted rifts in the French government's fragile consensus on the region.

Political commentators say Mr. Chirac's remarks to an Israeli journalist pointed up two important areas of discord on the Middle East with Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, who would normally have the final word on foreign policy.

He also reopened a controversy with ex-President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing over who was responsible for selling Iraq a nuclear reactor in 1975 — a deal denounced by Israel which destroyed the plant in an air raid in 1981.

After his remarks were published in the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharanot on Friday, Mr. Chirac issued a statement from Morocco, where he has been on holiday, denying he had given a formal interview to journalist Ben Porat.

He said he had had a "conversation" with Porat about a book he was writing on the Iraqi reactor deal. He did not contest the accuracy of the remarks attributed to him.

According to the newspaper, Mr. Chirac said he opposed the creation of a Palestinian state, favouring instead talks between Israel and Jordan over what kind of homeland to give the Palestinians.

These views contrast with those of Mr. Mitterrand, who called for a Palestinian state in 1982 and favours an international peace conference rather than the U.S. plan for Israel-Jordan talks.

"I do not favour an independent Palestinian state. No one really supports the formula of an independent Palestinian state. It is just rhetoric... the solution should be found in the framework of an accord with Jordan..." the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Mr. Chirac said he had never met Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat "and it is superfluous to add that this did not happen by chance."

France denies it has become cooler towards the PLO since right-winger Chirac became prime minister in March.

Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond failed to meet Mr. Arafat on his last visit to Tunis, where PLO has its headquarters, in what was officially described as a dispute over where the meeting should take place.

The presidential palace has declined to comment on the remarks attributed to Mr. Chirac and reactions have been muted since France and the Arab World are celebrating religious holidays this weekend.

9 hurt in Beirut artillery duel

BEIRUT (R) — At least nine people were wounded as Falangist and opposition militias traded artillery fire across Beirut's "green line" battlefield, Beirut Radio said.

The duel came after Falangist Lebanese Forces militia chief Samir Geagea ruled out Syrian military entry to Christian east Beirut.

Hundreds of Syrian commandos were deployed in the mainly Muslim Western sector last month in a bid to end militia anarchy.

In South Lebanon, security sources said three people were wounded Monday when shells fired by the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia hit six villages near Nabatieh.

They also said two people were killed and three wounded Sunday when SLA gunners shelled Kfar Roumane village, north east of Nabatieh.

Four Israeli warplanes flew over the coast and Palestinian refugee camps in the region early Monday, the sources added.

Meanwhile staff at the Central Bank of Lebanon staged a

one-day protest strike Monday, the first anniversary of the abduction of three Christian colleagues.

Banking sources said the state-run bank was closed and would stay shut Tuesday while private financial institutions were expected to stage a one-hour stoppage.

The three Central Bank staff — Andre Shuaib, Jacques Germani and Iskander Deeb — were seized a year ago in west Beirut.

Hundreds of Lebanese have been kidnapped during the 11-year civil war and many are still missing.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami wants Lebanon's full cabinet to meet soon to try to bring peace to the country, but some of his opposition allies doubt he will succeed.

Mr. Karami, a Sunni Muslim, said he expected the cabinet to meet shortly and voiced hopes of reaching a solution when he met U.S. Charge d'Affaires Terrance MacNamara in north Lebanon Saturday, an Nahar newspaper reported.

But the daily quoted sources

close to Shi'ite Amal militia chief and Justice Minister Nabih Berri as saying this would not work because Samir Geagea, a hardliner, had emerged as the strongman of the Falangist Lebanese Forces militia.

The Lebanese cabinet has not held a full meeting for months, with continuing political stalemate since the Lebanese Forces and Christian President Amin Gemayel blocked a Syrian-mediated militia pact signed last December to end 11 years of civil war.

The deadlock has been marked by a "car bomb war" in which 170 people in both east and west Beirut.

Fighting within the ranks of the Lebanese Forces, the main Falangist militia, erupted in east Beirut a week ago in what some residents said was a mini-revolt against Geagea's leadership.

Geagea, who took over the militia in January when he toppled Elie Hobeika, a signatory of the December pact, said in an interview Saturday he now had the situation under control.

Djibouti breaks transport links with Aden

DJIBOUTI (R) — The Red Sea state of Djibouti has broken air and sea links with nearby South Yemen after two MiG fighters of the South Yemeni Air Force intercepted an Air Djibouti airliner over the sea.

Djibouti's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Moumin Bahdon Farah, lodged a formal protest with the South Yemeni charge d'affaires and described the interception on Saturday as a grave and disturbing act of piracy.

The Air Djibouti Boeing 720 was flying home from the North Yemeni capital of Sanaa with 59 passengers aboard when the two MiGs forced it to land at Aden Airport.

Armed men searched the plane, apparently in the hope of finding supporters of former President Ali Nasser Mohammad, who lost power in South Yemen last January after bloody fighting between rival Marxist factions, informed sources said.

They reported that Mr. Hussein Kassem Ahmad, an associate of Nasser Mohammad, was aboard the plane but was allowed to continue his journey after the Ethiopian pilot refused to take off

without him.

Ahmad has been shuttling through Djibouti on trips between Aden, Adaba, where Mr. Nasser Mohammad is living in exile, and Sanaa, where thousands of the former president's supporters sought sanctuary after the January fighting.

Mr. Nasser Mohammad is also a frequent visitor to North Yemen. The Aden government last week called on Mr. Nasser Mohammad and 47 people close to him to surrender and stand trial for treason.

In Aden Sunday an official spokesman quoted by Aden Radio said the airliner left its usual course and "strayed 80 kilometres into prohibited Yemeni territory."

"The pilot was asked to alter his course and when he refused he was asked to land at Aden Airport," the spokesman said.

The dispute is complicated by the close ideological links between Marxist Ethiopia and South Yemen and by the desire of both Yemeni governments for good relations with each other.

The interception of the plane marks the first time Djibouti has been caught up in the affair.

The Red Sea state, which faces South Yemen across the 27-mile-wide Bab Al Mandeb Strait, has previously had normal ties with its neighbour.

In Sanaa, the interception was regarded as a sign of Aden's growing concern about the activities of supporters of the ousted president.

About 10,000 South Yemenis sought refuge in North Yemen after Mr. Nasser Mohammad was ousted, according to diplomatic sources there.

Sanaa residents said a radio station began broadcasting Sunday on the same wavelength as Aden Radio, referring to Mr. Nasser Mohammad as president. They did not know the origin of the broadcasts.

Diplomatic sources in Sanaa said the Aden government had so far appeared anxious not to worsen a rift with its neighbour but was showing signs of exasperation at what it regarded as attempts to undermine its stability.

SPLA tightens noose around south Sudanese town

WAU, Sudan (R) — Hunger or fear gnaws at the belly of nearly every living creature in this remote south Sudanese town, where the long wait for food fills people's days and echoing gunfire rules the night.

For Wau's population of up to 170,000 people, lost in a huge green, tree-studded plain on the banks of a white Nile tributary 1,040 kilometres south west of Khartoum, hope is for the better but expectations are for the worse.

Except for radio, they are cut off from the outside world by bandits and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) guerrillas.

Aircraft have stopped landing in Wau since the SPLA threatened on Friday to down any plane flying over south Sudan.

A Sudanair Fokker Friendship

was shot down near Malakal, north east of Wau, on Saturday and the official Sudanese News Agency SUNA said about 60 people aboard were killed.

The SPLA threat has forced a halt to an emergency airlift to Wau by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) after just 40 tons of maize had been flown in.

The maize will only feed 10,000 people for a week, ICRC Representative Stephane Jacquemet said, and a great number of children, 18 per cent of whom are severely malnourished, will die if the airlift is not resumed.

The last major truck convoy carrying cereal staples reached Wau in April. "Our only hope is the Red Cross. What we already have at our disposal is nearly exhausted," Bishop Joseph

Nyekiende told Reuters.

Some 300 starving tribespeople gather in pathetic knots... at Nyekiende's Catholic mission every day, the babies whimpering with hunger, all hoping the priests will take pity and break open one more of their last sacks of treasured Canadian food supplies.

For those with money, a few open stalls among the mostly battered-up market areas sell beef, exorbitantly priced vegetables and tinned food. And for those who smoke, Nyekiende said, cigarettes are now their main intake.

As food supplies dwindle, the SPLA and the military are keeping up pressure on each other.

Sporadic rifle and shellfire echoed through Wau on Saturday night, some from exchanges

between the army and SPLA and the first from army sweeps through Dinka tribal areas of the town.

The Dinkas, the majority tribe in south Sudan, form the backbone of the SPLA and are traditional enemies of the Arabised northern army troops.

On Thursday night, SPLA guerrillas made their first major attack on the edge of Wau in the three-year-old bush war. At least 10 people were killed in the fighting and the SPLA looted and set fire to more than 30 thatched huts, residents said.

The SPLA, which fights for independence for the south, has cancelled all guerrilla leave and its radio has announced an offensive against the dozen army garrisons, including Wau, that are scattered like islands in the vastness of south Sudan.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
17:00 — Koran
17:30 — Cartoons
18:15 — Children programmes
18:30 — Walt Disney
19:30 — Mico at Work
19:40 — Religious programme
19:50 — Tomorrow's programme
19:55 — News programme
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:10 — Arabic series
20:20 — News Summary
20:30 — Varieties programme
20:40 — News Summary in Arabic
20:50 — Religious programme

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 — Kiosque a Musique
18:30 — La vallee des peupliers
19:00 — News in French
19:15 — French varieties
19:30 — News in Hebrew
19:45 — Was all the training in vain
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Music Box
20:40 — Magazine Zero One
20:50 — Alfred Hitchcock
21:00 — News in English
21:30 — The Master

RADIO JORDAN
85.5 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 95.0 KHz. SW
77111-19

07:00 — Light Music
07:30 — News Desk
08:00 — Morning Show
08:30 — News Summary
08:45 — Morning Show Continues
09:00 — Oriental Foods
09:15 — Pop Session
09:30 — News Summary
09:45 — Top Twenty
09:50 — Newsdesk
10:00 — Date with a Star
10:30 — Evening Show
10:45 — News Summary
11:00 — Evening Show Continues
11:15 — News Summary
11:30 — Evening Show Continues
11:45 — News Summary
12:00 — News Summary

23:05 — Evening Show Continues
23:57 — News Headlines
24:00 — Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00 David Munrow 07:30 The Philip Jones Ensemble 08:00 08:30 Reflections 08:30 08:45 News 08:45 09:00 World News 09:00 09:15 News Summary 09:15 09:30 News 09:30 09:45 News Summary 09:45 10:00 News 10:00 10:15 News Summary 10:15 10:30 News 10:30 10:45 News Summary 10:45 11:00 News 11:00 11:15 News Summary 11:15 11:30 News 11:30 11:45 News Summary 11:45 12:00 News 12:00 12:15 News Summary 12:15 12:30 News 12:30 12:45 News Summary 12:45 13:00 News 13:00 13:15 News Summary 13:15 13:30 News 13:30 13:45 News Summary 13:45 14:00 News 14:00 14:15 News Summary 14:15 14:30 News 14:30 14:45 News Summary 14:45 15:00 News 15:00 15:15 News Summary 15:15 15:30 News 15:30 15:45 News Summary 15:45 16:00 News 16:00 16:15 News Summary 16:15 16:30 News 16:30 16:45 News Summary 16:45 17:00 News 17:00 17:15 News Summary 17:15 17:30 News 17:30 17:45 News Summary 17:45 18:00 News 18:00 18:15 News Summary 18:15 18:30 News 18:30 18:45 News Summary 18:45 19:00 News 19:00 19:15 News Summary 19:15 19:30 News 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Jordan Times
 Published daily except Fridays
 Circulation: 10,000 copies per day
 Subscription rates: \$10 per year in advance
 Single copies: 10 cents
 Advertising rates: \$100 per line per month
 Classified advertising: \$50 per line per month
 Telephone: 667-7744, 670-1144
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 Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Joint action needed

APART from the Jordanian moves to rally Arab ranks there is no similar activity on the Arab level; and the Arab Nation seems to be slumbering and indifferent as to the events surrounding it. This sad situation has not changed despite the dangerous events and threats confronting the Arabs and looming in the offing. It must be said that the long mysterious waiting and the state of indifference are bound to place new weapons in the adversaries hands, acting against Arab national interests. This situation requires immediate action as continued threats to the nation cannot be overlooked and the conflicts in this region cannot be tolerated any longer. The Arabs should tackle the Iran-Iraq war, iron out inter-Arab differences and take joint action to improve economic conditions. Jordan is instrumental in trying to mobilise Arab forces for joint action. It is now for the other countries to show positive response if they really want to overcome difficulties and regain their rights.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iran continues aggression

THE Iranians met a recent call for peace from President Saddam Hussein by dangerously escalating the conflict and increasing their shelling of civilian centres. In his call the Iraqi leader wanted to put an end to the bloodshed and to find a peaceful solution for the conflict, but was met with obstinacy and total disregard from the Iranian rulers. We compared Iraq's recent proposals with that agreement which was signed between Iran and Iraq in Algeria and which provided for a non-interference in each other's internal affairs and a demarcation of international borders. In the face of Iran's adamant position the Arab states ought to heed Jordan's call for an implementation of the provisions of the joint Arab defence pact, and should support Iraq in the war in a manner to bring about total superiority for the Iraqi forces that can deter any aggression and can force the Iranians to respond to the voice of reason and peace. It should be said that Iran is bound to continue its aggression as long as the Arabs are in disarray and their forces are weak and unable to confront the dangers.

Friday's

Al Ra'i: The meaning of the Eid

ARABS and Muslims celebrate Eid Al Adha today at the end of the annual pilgrimage to the holy places in Mecca. This is an occasion that calls for solidarity, joint action and absolute commitment to the principles of Islam. This is an occasion for the Arab and Islamic nations to make peace and to join forces for achieving progress and stability and to allow justice to prevail. If the Arabs and Muslims return to their religion and their faith they can find many ways of achieving peace and justice and they can find a way for rescuing their land and their people from occupation. The Arabs and Muslims possess vast human and material potentials which should be employed in their struggle to confront the different challenges. All the elements for success are present and in the hands of Arabs and Muslims and all they have to do is to employ them with skill and with planning and joint action to regain their usurped territory and save their kinsmen from occupation. Eid Al Adha bears many meanings and offers many opportunities for the Arabs which they should seize and employ.

Al Dustour: An occasion for reflection

THE Arab and Islamic worlds Friday celebrated Eid Al Adha, feast of the sacrifice, which carries sublime meanings from which many lessons can be learnt. The Muslims who celebrate the feast are now more than any time before, in need of solidarity and in need of following in the steps of their forefathers who had offered sacrifice for the sake of liberating man from slavery, and who helped in taking this nation out of the darkness into the light and laid the basis for a glorious civilisation. This feast comes as the Arabs and Muslims are in an unenviable situation. They are divided and weak and their ranks are in total disarray, with some of their forces fighting one another and opening the way for foreign and hostile nations to interfere in their affairs. We are saddened to see this feast come to the Arabs and Muslims as the Iranians pursue their aggression on the Iraqi people, causing further bloodshed among Muslims. The Islamic World should on such an occasion support Iraq in its endeavour to end the war and to find a peaceful settlement to it.

Sawt Al Shaab: Muslims' responsibility

THE gathering of thousands of Muslim pilgrims around the Ka'aba in Mecca and their prayers together on Mount Arafat represent the greatest ever human demonstration of brotherhood, piety and cohesion. The prayers and the religious ceremonies in Mecca present an opportunity for all Muslims irrespective of their colour or origin to be united under the umbrella of their religion, and a chance for Muslims to work jointly to end differences that have been plaguing their countries and opening the chance for their enemies to maintain their occupation of their holy land and territory. As the feast comes, we witness Muslims fighting one another and sapping their resources and their manpower because they are not committed to the principles of their religion and faith. Today we are in great need of solidarity and mobilisation of forces for the sake of regaining our lands and our holy places. We are in need of genuine cooperation to end the conflicts among Muslims and unity of ranks to safeguard our national interests.

Israel and South Africa: Political ties

By Jane Hunter

At the eleventh hour, on June 15, with South Africa under virtual martial law and braced for demonstrations the following day, Israel announced that it would join other Western countries in shutting its Pretoria embassy for the day. As a protest at the South African government's refusal to allow gatherings to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the uprising in the black township of Soweto, the gesture was an exercise in style over substance.

In the days that followed Pretoria's declaration of a state of emergency, nine "urgent" motions on South Africa were advanced in the Knesset. Several speakers of the left opposition parties called for withdrawal of Israel's ambassador, and the Hadash party demanded that Israel halt its military and economic cooperation with the apartheid government as well. Eight motions, all condemning apartheid, were passed to a committee for further consideration. Responding on behalf of the government, Deputy Speaker Roni Milo said that Israel's relations with South Africa "are based on the assumption that the citizens of South Africa must settle their problems among themselves." Israel, continued Milo, encouraged all sectors of the population to communicate with each other. On June 17, citing "technical" reasons, the finance ministry cancelled the annual trip of a delegation to South Africa. This year's delegation was to have been headed by the ministry's director-general and, according to Israeli radio, would have discussed "increasing investment in Israel by South Africans" and negotiated terms of credit for Israeli imports of South African coal.

In the words of an unnamed Labour party minister, this flurry of activity relating to South Africa provided "the opportunity of proving our credentials without harming our essential interests." Indeed, in announcing the day's closure of Israel's embassy,

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir had made it clear that the move did not signify a substantive change in Israeli policy toward South Africa, a policy which justifies significant trade links with South Africa on the twin grounds of concern for South Africa's Jewish community and economic imperatives. That same day Shamir said Israel would not impose economic sanctions on South Africa. In the ensuing weeks, while the imposition of sanctions against South Africa by the U.S., Britain and West Germany began to seem all but inevitable, especially after the failure of the mission to South Africa of Sir Geoffrey Howe, Britain's foreign minister and current head of the EEC's council of ministers, Israel has not altered its position.

Although South African Jews are the highest per capita donors to the Jewish state, there are many among them who are opponents of apartheid.

Indeed, on July 26, The Jerusalem Post reported that the renewal of the financial agreement with South Africa was imminent. During July it was also reported that South Africa's deputy foreign minister and deputy minister of information would visit soon. Any hope that the government might preserve an illusory shred of its "anti-apartheid credentials" vanished when it was also revealed that Foreign Minister Shamir had approved the visit of the "president" of the pseudo-state of Bophuthatswana. According to Ha'aretz, Lucas Mangope would accompany a choir from his bantustan, which, along with an all white boy's choir, would participate in an Israel song festival. While the Israeli press accounts of these exchanges emphasised that none of the South African officials would receive official courtesies, it is far more notable that the only protest of

their presence was the withdrawal of one Kibbutz choir from the song festival.

Save for the gravity of the South African situation, these Israeli contacts with the apartheid regime are not untypical. Over the past 18 months, during which time South Africa has descended into civil chaos, Israel has extended itself politically for the white regime in ways that no other nation has. In November 1984, the entire Israeli cabinet with the exception of Prime Minister Shimon Peres received with state honours Pretoria's foreign minister, Roelof "Pik" Botha. That same month, Ariel, a settlement in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, twinned itself with Bishop, the "capital" of Ciskei, one of the South African bantustans, or tribal reserves, established by Pretoria in an attempt to foreclose the possibility that a black majority would ever be enfranchised in South Africa. In April 1985 a high level delegation from Namibia, the former colony of Southwest Africa which South Africa refuses to relinquish, visited Israel to view at first hand Israeli agricultural assistance programmes. The visit grew out of an offer made in June 1984 by the Israeli ambassador to South Africa who announced that — in contravention of international norms — Israel would not wait until Namibia received independence to offer it development assistance.

That same month, only vigorous intervention by the foreign ministry prevented a large Israeli parliamentary delegation from attending the opening of the "parliament" of Ciskei. Ministry bureaucrats were anxious that such a visit — in addition to already heavy business activity in the bantustans by leading figures in the Israeli establishment and the presence in Israel of official "representations" of Ciskei and Bophuthatswana, another bantustan — would undermine their efforts to improve relations with independent African nations.

In August 1985 the Israeli government seemingly reversed itself by warmly welcoming a

bantustan leader, the chief minister of KwaZulu, Gatsha Buthelezi. Israel announced it intended to extend aid to KwaZulu, a move as controversial as the offer to Namibia. Just what guided the Israeli decision to aid Buthelezi, who is condemned by other black leaders as a collaborator with the white government, is unclear; it may have been his popularity with such leaders as President Reagan and Prime Minister Thatcher; it may have been an awkward attempt to establish ties with South African blacks — perhaps both. Buthelezi has lately obliged his Israeli benefactors by saying that the African National Congress is an anti-Semitic (as opposed to anti-Zionist) organisation and that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi "is today part of the ANC" — words that play very well indeed in the American-Jewish circles to which they were directed. Early this year Israeli officials inspired President P.W. Botha to couple the release of Nelson Mandela to the release by the USSR of Anatoly Shcharansky and Andrei Sakharov. The move, which appalled Mandela's numerous followers, was intended to score points for Israel in African capitals.

...the South Africans were quite capable of embarrassing Israel before the world by revealing details of the relationship.

Attempting to lower the profile of its interaction with Pretoria — at the June Paris conference on sanctions against South Africa some delegates grumbled that Israel was even allowed to attend as an "observer" — the Israeli cabinet ordered Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur and Minister without Portfolio Moshe Arens, both of whom recently visited South Africa, to "refrain from meeting with South African ministers." At least that is what the Jerusalem Post said.

If Israel and South Africa ever signed a friendship treaty it has remained a closely guarded secret. Yet the sum of all these contacts suggests just such an affirmative alliance. As to the exact composition of the glue that binds the two regimes together, several explanations have been advanced, the truth undoubtedly apportioned among them.

Most serious Israeli analysts discount Israel's frequent claim to a unique and legitimate political connection with South Africa: concern for the 110,000-strong Jewish community there. Although South African Jews are the highest per capita donors to the Jewish state, there are many among them who are opponents of apartheid and have been bitter critics of Israel's extensive dealing with the National party government, which, with its historical ties to Nazism, would seem to pose the greatest possible danger to Jews. The frequently heard comparison between Zionism and apartheid, pointing to the affinity the two states have for each other and to the notion that Israel and South Africa find in each other solace for the international isolation both have suffered as a result of their aggressive policies, is undoubtedly a motivating factor in the relationship. But ideological perversion is a relatively feeble motor for international relations. And, with an eye to their U.S. supporters, Israeli leaders must frequently profess their "basic and consistent opposition to apartheid," as the statement announcing the June 16 embassy closure phrased it.

There is also the idea that Israel and South Africa share strategic interests, that, as it has sometimes been put, they guard their respective portals to Africa. General Vigal Alon told the South Africans during a 1956 visit that unless they took a stand against Egyptian President Nasser, "it would not be many years before South Africa would have to ask permission to cross the Red Sea." Likewise, South Africans have been making a big deal out of links between the African National

Congress and the Palestine Liberation Organisation in an attempt to convince Western leaders that the ANC is part of the "international terrorist" created by President Reagan and his allies.

The commercial aspects of the relationship are seen by many Israeli analysts — even those who insist that trade with Pretoria is minimal — as the main continuing attraction for their government's policy makers. They argue that for Israel's chronically ill economy, arms sales to South Africa, South African investment in the Israeli economy, and the economic activities of Israelis in South Africa, are all reliable sources of foreign exchange too valuable to forego. That this argument has wide currency is apparent in the reluctance of Israeli anti-apartheid activists to call for economic sanctions against South Africa. Instead, the small but vocal Israeli anti-apartheid movement has sought political gestures and a halt to arms sales to Pretoria.

Israel has extended itself politically for the white regime in ways that no other nation has.

Another seldom heard but somewhat plausible explanation for Israel's apparent determination to continue its multiple dealings with South Africa, regardless of the cost in terms of international opprobrium, is blackmail. According to this theory, it would be more damaging for Israel to attempt to extricate itself from its involvement than to continue pandering to South Africa. "They say to Israel 'Look, if you don't continue with this relationship on every level, you're going to blow the guff on you,'" Michael Wade, a professor of African Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem said on National Public Radio. Of South Africa birth himself Wade said the South Africans were quite capable of embarrassing Israel before the world by revealing details of the relationship — Middle East International, London.

Sandinistas hope to counter contra threat

By Reid G. Miller
The Associated Press

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Sandinista army hopes to counter an increased threat from U.S.-backed guerrillas with more men, better weapons and new battlefield tactics, Nicaraguan and foreign diplomatic sources say.

With both sides predicting a rapid, heavy escalation of a war that already has raged for more than five years, the Sandinistas are counting on maintaining an edge over the rebels through their superiority in numbers, firepower and mobility.

Those three factors, plus a sophisticated intelligence service, have given the Sandinistas such a distinct combat advantage that the rebels have never come even remotely close to their goal of overthrowing the leftist Nicaraguan government.

But with a fresh infusion of \$100 million in U.S. aid, the rebels pose a greater threat than perhaps ever before — a threat the Sandinistas moved to meet even before the U.S. Senate stamped final congressional approval on the assistance package last week.

Shortly after the U.S. House of Representatives first approved the aid package to the rebels in late June, Western military and diplomatic sources reported the Sandinistas had received a shipment of MI-17 Soviet troop transport helicopters — that clearly had been in the pipeline long before the house vote.

Although the number of MI-17's in the shipment was not precisely determined, most Western analysts agreed that the new craft brought the Sandinista helicopter fleet to about 22, including at least six Soviet MI-24's.

The MI-24 is one of the world's most potent gunships, mounting cannons, rockets and machineguns and capable of saturating an area the size of a football field with devastating firepower almost instantaneously.

The MI-24's made their first battlefield appearances in Nicaragua in early 1985, and rebel commanders admit they have dealt not only death to their troops but have created severe morale problems among men unequipped to fight them.

The Sandinistas also are known to have a number of MI-8's, a troop carrier similar to the MI-17. In addition to men and material, both helicopters can carry heavy machineguns and rockets.

"They (the Sandinistas) plan to expand their fleet to 30 or more, although they've had some trouble keeping the helicopters they've already got in the air," said one Western military analyst with access to intelligence reports. That analyst and others said the

Nicaraguans have been plagued by maintenance problems that keep a number of their helicopters grounded at any given time, a not uncommon occurrence even among more sophisticated armies.

An MI-17 crashed near Puerto Cabezas in northeastern Nicaragua on July 19, killing 16 and injuring one.

Nicaraguan authorities blamed the accident on mechanical problems.

But diplomatic sources say several other helicopters have crashed without apparent loss of life, and the accidents have gone unreported by the Sandinistas.

Citing either security reasons or concern that their remarks would offend their host country, none of the officials interviewed would speak for attribution.

So far the Sandinistas have used their helicopters sparingly, generally to ferry supplies, reinforce small units and evacuate wounded.

But with a growing fleet, most analysts expect the Sandinistas to soon begin full-scale air mobile operations, using their helicopters to carry full battalions of up to 500 men to remote battlefields.

The rebels have managed to shoot down only one helicopter, last December, using what the Sandinistas said was a Sam-7 missile. The insurgents bought about 30 of the missiles on the open market early last year, but reportedly found they didn't work well under field conditions in Nicaragua.

They have placed a priority on obtaining improved anti-aircraft missile with their new aid money. Late last year, the Sandinistas unveiled new fighting units called light hunter battalions, designed to search out and fight the enemy in the rugged mountains, swamps and jungles of northern and eastern Nicaragua, far from their bases of support.

The Sandinistas treat the strength of their army and its weapons as state secrets, but they are believed to have at least 100,000 men under arms, including about 50,000 regular soldiers and an equal number of militiamen and reservists.

Most analysts interviewed said they expected that strength to increase in coming months.

Poised against the Sandinistas are an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 rebels, popularly known as contras.

With the \$100 million in new U.S. aid, they hope to increase their strength to at least 30,000 men, buy transport aircraft and light helicopters to supply their own troops and obtain more anti-aircraft missiles to combat the Sandinista air fleet.

The fleet also includes three aging, U.S. T-33 jet fighters of



pre-Korean war vintage, and a handful of light transport and observation planes.

The Sandinistas are better equipped on the ground than in the air.

Their arsenal includes more than 200 Soviet-built tanks and armoured vehicles, about 100 152-millimeter cannons, and an undetermined number of

ground-to-ground and ground-to-air missile launchers and, by their own count, more than 200,000 AK-47 automatic rifles.

A West European diplomat noted that helicopters given to the Sandinistas have gotten a lot of public attention, but hundreds of trucks, jeeps and other vehicles from East Germany have been

even more important in giving mobility to Sandinista forces. Some contras pack their weapons and supplies on their own backs and on mules.

Despite their acknowledged superiority in men and weapons, the Sandinistas have been openly shopping for more firepower in recent months, approaching not only the Soviet Union, Cuba and

other East bloc nations, but such Western countries as France.

It is not known what success the financially strapped Nicaraguan government has had, but Cuba's deputy minister of foreign affairs, Ricardo Alarcon, told reporters in that his country "will do all we can to increase our aid to the Sandinistas in all areas."

U.S. Nicaragua rebel aid draws dire war predictions

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — With \$100 million in U.S. aid to right-wing rebels now virtually assured, President Reagan's critics are warning he is on a risky path that could lead American troops into combat in Nicaragua.

Opponents of Reagan's policy of military pressure on Managua are drawing analogies with the 1961 Bay of Pigs fiasco, in which a U.S.-backed army of anti-Communist Cuban exiles was annihilated shortly after it landed in Cuba, and with America's defeat in Vietnam.

"The syndrome of the quagmire, slowly but surely sucking us deeper into an endless military conflict that we cannot escape, applies to Nicaragua as much as it did Vietnam," said Senator Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat.

Reagan, claiming leftist Nicaragua posed a military threat to its neighbours and the United States, had pressed Congress

strongly for the aid. It would be administered by the CIA and would come with U.S. advisers and military trainers.

The Senate approved the aid package last Wednesday. The House of Representatives approved one earlier and a joint bill is likely to be passed soon clearing the way for aid to the "contra" rebels to resume after a gap of two years.

The contras have been employing hit-and-run guerrilla tactics from enclaves in Honduras and Costa Rica with their forces dispersed to avoid decisive defeat.

But, with the renewal of aid, the contras will be trained as regular army units for conventional pitched battles, congressional sources said.

Within a year, the contras are expected to drive into Nicaragua, seize a lightly defended area, and declare a provisional government, which would then be recognised by the United States, according to Senator Jim Sasser, a Tennessee Democrat.

He said he had been told of

probable war scenarios by informed U.S. officials.

Likely areas for a contra drive were Puerto Cabezas, on the Atlantic coast, or portions of Nueva Segovia, a northern province, congressional sources said.

Sasser, speaking on the Senate floor last week, warned that a contra enclave in Nicaragua would come under intense attack by the Sandinista government's forces and could face annihilation, just as the Cuban exile army did at the Bay of Pigs.

Washington would face the choice of being humiliated by a contra defeat or sending in U.S. combat troops, with the likelihood of a protracted war which lacked the backing of the American people, Sasser said.

Nicaragua has a regular army of over 50,000, with a fleet of Soviet-made combat helicopters, and a 100,000-man militia. The contras are now estimated to number about 15,000.

Reagan, speaking on Nicaragua, has said more than

once that "U.S. troops have not been asked for and are not needed."

But senator John Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat, said Reagan's statement echoed an assurance by President John Kennedy's defence secretary, Robert McNamara: "We have no plans at present to send combat troops to South Vietnam."

U.S. officials reject analogies between Nicaragua and Vietnam. They insist a more appropriate comparison is with the Philippines, where a popular opposition movement ousted President Ferdinand Marcos this year.

Timothy Ashby of the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank said there was evidence that elements of the Sandinista armed forces were unreliable and might be induced to mutiny.

Reagan's critics say the contras are poorly trained, faction-ridden, penetrated by Sandinista intelligence agents, and that their violence has alienated many Nicaraguans.



Mount Ararat is seen with its double cone-shaped peaks from Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic where, according to the Bible, Noah's Ark came to rest (J.T. file photo)

Search for Noah's ark moves away from Ararat

By Zeynep Alendar
The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — A boat-shaped formation in eastern Turkey has shifted the focus away from the high slopes of Mt. Ararat in the search for Noah's Ark.

In the past two years several American explorers have speculated that the formation, located 24 kilometres south of Mt. Ararat near the Soviet border, could be the legendary ark and should be dug out.

For decades, explorers have searched for the ark on the slopes of Mt. Ararat, the highest mountain in Asia Minor, 5,400 metres (17,820 feet) where the Biblical account of the great flood places it.

In 1984, a team from international expeditions, a Los Angeles-based organisation, visited the boat-shaped formation near the village of Uzenlig.

At that time, Marvin Steffins, who led the expedition, said the team had discovered the ark. But the group did not return to substantiate the claim.

Last year, a different group led by Ron Wyatt travelled to the same spot and made an identical

claim. "The boat is there. It is only a matter of digging it up," Wyatt said.

David Fasold, a marine surveyor who was with Wyatt's group last summer, has returned this year. Fasold, who says he is acting alone and using personal funds, said he is waiting for permission from the Turkish government to excavate in the 1,000-square-metre area.

That permission may never come, however. The governor of Agri province, where Mt. Ararat is located, has said that only Turkish explorers will be allowed to excavate the area.

Fasold said the object located at a height of 1,935 metres is shaped like a reed boat and covered with soil and cement. He said it is nestled into the side of a hill and close to a large rock formation, with its stern up.

Fasold claims he got iron readings with a metal detector at regular intervals of 40 cms., possibly showing iron nails of the boat.

Governor Kutlu Aktas said he has invited Turkish geologists and archaeologists to study the formation and if necessary,

excavate it to settle speculations once and for all.

The boat-shaped formation was first sighted by Turkish Air Force pilots while flying over the area in 1957 but the Turks did not pursue it.

Then the whole area, including Mt. Ararat, was sealed off to foreigners until 1982 because of Soviet complaints that explorers included U.S. agents attempting to view Soviet border fortifications. The mountain is only a few miles from the Soviet border.

The Book of Genesis in the Bible says Noah's Ark washed up on the mountains of Ararat after the great deluge. The holy Koran says the boat came to rest on Judi, the name of a mountain in Turkey which is 317 kilometres southeast of Ararat.

Fasold has another explanation. Ararat is a Syrian name for Urartu, so the Ark could be on any mountain in the land of Urartu. Judi means high place in Arabic so the Ark landed on a high place.

Urartu was a civilisation which flourished in 1275-600 B.C. in what is now eastern Turkey, Soviet Armenia and north west

Iran.

"As a marine surveyor, the first time I saw the formation I said to myself that's a shipwreck," Fasold said.

He said the formation's measurements — 156 metres long and 41 metres wide — also roughly correspond to those given in the Bible for the ark.

According to the Bible, the ark was 300 cubits long and 50 cubits wide. A cubit, an ancient form of measurement, is believed equal to 18 to 22 inches, which would make the ark at least 137 metres long.

Geologist Yilmaz Guner, in a recent article, claimed that the boat-shaped object was formed as a result of thousands of years of erosion.

More than 50 Americans, who still believe the ark may be on Mt. Ararat, have applied to the Foreign Ministry this year for permission to climb. Among them is former U.S. astronaut James Irwin, who attempted five climbs with no concrete results.

The mountain is covered with snow and ice nine months out of the year and climbers prefer summer months.

Artist casts new light on Manhattan's night skyline

By Michael Connor
Reuters

NEW YORK — Abe Feder has changed the New York night skyline, putting a new building into the cityscape of central Manhattan.

Thanks to the equivalent of 42,000 72-watt bulbs, he has given the 50-year-old RCA building a starring role in the view, bringing the overlooked 70-storey tower sharply into focus with his lighting scheme.

"What I do is reveal things," Feder said in an interview with Reuters.

Feder, at 77, still a leading American practitioner of architectural, stage and commercial lighting, has lit many of the most famous buildings in the country, as well as hundreds of Broadway plays.

The RCA building, a splendid piece of skyscraper architecture, is the heart of world-famous Rockefeller Centre, a complex of office buildings, entertainment, business and shopping built in the 1930s.

Its handsome stone facade has been obscured by slab-like towers of steel and glass built around it in later decades.

Feder said he was given a budget under a \$1 million and a free hand by the managers of the centre.

His goal was to cover the building with a frosting of white light so smooth and bright that a passerby's eye would be irresistibly drawn to it.

"You don't just floodlight something like that," Feder said. "You have to bring the light in at different angles."

Feder spent 18 months on the project, which consists of 342 lamps atop eight buildings in Rockefeller Centre, and several weeks of nights on rooftops targeting each of the lamps so that the entire 290-metre tower was lit.

When Feder and his small staff are not on rooftops or at construction sites, they work in a studio on the edge of New York's garment district on the West Side. It is filled with blueprints, drafting boards and electric bulbs.

Feder, an engineer by training, knows the strengths and peculiarities of every bulb, and over the years has persuaded the makers to create many specialist bulbs for his projects.

He laid a hand on one bulb the size of a small child and said: "General Electric made that one for me for RCA. I told them what I needed and they did it."

Feder's fascination with lights for over six decades now began at the age of 12 when he stepped out of an audience to help a magician performing in his native Milwaukee.

"It was a revelation," Feder said after describing how the magician used lights to pull off tricks. "It was a whole world of illusion which was wonderful to me. And it drove me."

Feder first lit high school plays, took up engineering in college and was lighting shows for theatrical innovator Orson Welles by the mid-1930s.

Welles and Feder collaborated on a 1937 production of Christopher Marlowe's "Dr. Faustus" that is now considered a

milestone in stage lighting.

Welles did away with all scenery and props and relied entirely on Feder's lights in a pitch black theatre to present the entrances and exits of the play's numerous ghosts.

Feder has lit at least 300 other plays, including the Broadway production of "My Fair Lady" and "Camelot". He also began lighting stores and buildings as his reputation in stage lighting grew.

In the 1960s, he developed a method of highlighting paintings through a combination of artificial and natural light while setting up displays throughout the United States of art works collected by the late Samuel Kress, founder of a giant chain of discount stores.

He has lit jewellery stores, restaurants, airports, a geodesic dome designed by architect and philosopher Buckminster Fuller, the Pan American building in New York and the Kennedy Centre in Washington, D.C.

"You never light the food," he said of restaurant lighting. "You light the women. Because when they look good, they come back."

Greeks wake up to retailers' pressure on siesta tradition

By Andriana Ierodimou

ONE of the idiosyncrasies of Athenian life is that on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, summer or winter, the city experiences not just two rush hours, but four — one in the early morning, one at midday, a third in the late afternoon and a fourth around 8 p.m.

The four traffic peaks are caused by Greek shop hours which, in spite of entry into the EEC and the general westernisation of the country's lifestyle, are still mostly designed to reserve the time-honoured Mediterranean practice of the siesta.

The pattern of interrupted shop hours to allow for the afternoon siesta break, traditionally a relaxed and substantial lunch, has been in force in Greece "as long as anyone can remember," according to the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

During the latter part of the 1967-74 military dictatorship, Monday and Wednesday evening shopping hours were scrapped, making for the present system in which shops are open half days only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, and mornings and evenings with an afternoon interruption on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, to make a total of 45 opening hours per week.

To complicate matters further, within this general timetable, district authorities set slightly varying opening hour schedules for different categories of shops. The hours also vary seasonally, to yield a summer and winter

schedule.

Thus, if it is a summer Monday or Wednesday and an Athenian housewife wants to buy bread from her local bakery, the purchase must be made between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. If it is Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, the hours are 7 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. and again 5.30 to 9 p.m.

Should she want to pick up her watch after repair at the jeweller's, however, she has to remember that the opening hours are 7 a.m. to 2.45 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday, or 7 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

Since the mid-1970s, successive administrations — including the socialist one which came to power in 1981 — have tried to tackle the shop hours issue with the aim of streamlining the system and eliminating the counter-productive siesta break. They have all backed off, realising that the move would carry a heavy political cost. An eight to five system introduced in 1977 under a conservative administration lasted all of 70 days.

The issue has resurfaced in recent months, as Greece's current economic crisis has led to soul-searching on ways to boost productivity and make the domestic market more efficient.

Mr. George Meimaris, president of the Greek Retail Merchants Association (Selpe), which represents the large shops, attributes the lack of progress in reforming hours to the fact that it is a "thorny political issue" and blames resistance to the reforms on "the erosion in the work ethic in Greece."

He says, however, that the Government realises it has every reason to introduce a "unified" shop hours system — that is, without the siesta break — which should also not be pegged to the length of the working week.

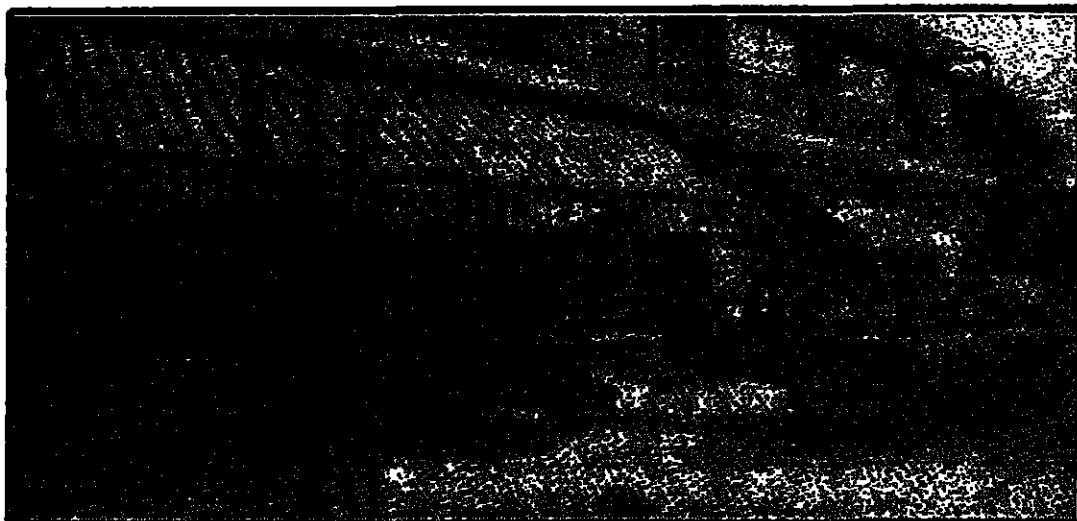
Selpe, which along with the Greek Supermarkets Association (Seame) is leading efforts for change, has proposed a 60-hour or 58-hour shopping week, with shops open continuously from the morning to the late evening five days a week, and a half-day on Saturdays.

Mr. Meimaris says this would improve service to consumers, including tourists, decongest traffic, do much to reduce the largely exhaust-fume-generated pollution cloud which bedevils Athens and, not least, create in the first instance 10,000 to 15,000 jobs, assuming a constant 40-hour working week.

However, small and medium-sized shops are unsympathetic to the notion of doing away with the siesta break and extending shopping hours. They are in the overwhelming majority in Greece.

Mr. Panos Diopoulis, president of the Athens Trade Association, which represents the small shops, stresses that he and his colleagues are "willing to discuss anything the government invites us to." He is forthright, however, about favouring the present system.

"Let's face it. The government tried keeping shops open in the afternoon in the 1970s, and there wasn't even a mosquito stirring in the market. The siesta hours are dead hours commercially in Greece," Mr. Diopoulis says.



A small supermarket in Greece — but customers have to consult the calendar before deciding what time they will find it open

Stretching the shopping schedule, would also, according to Mr. Diopoulis, place an undue strain on the small shopkeeper, who make a practice of standing behind their own counters or cash registers as long as their shops are open.

The most militant opposition to the government's tentative plans for change comes from the trade Employees Union, which speaks for workers in the commercial sector, very much in the language of the Communist opposition.

According to Mr. Christos Triantafyllou, the union's

Sinai: Troubled history, promising future

By John Borell

FOR thousands of years the 23,000 square mile Sinai peninsula, a wedge of sand and wind clawed granite and limestone rock between Asia and Africa, has been both a bridge and a barrier to competing civilisations. In the past three millennia some 50 different armies have marched across it or fortified its strategic passes to keep out others. Not even Belgium has felt the boots of so many invaders.

Much of the detritus of this long struggle remains: Pharaonic graffiti in granite grottoes. Hellenistic and Roman place names, Saracen and Crusader castles. There are discarded relics of more recent conflicts too, from still intact sections of a first world war railway line to the smashed bunkers of the supposedly impenetrable Bar Lev line.

Half-buried tank turrets and burnt out trucks around the Mitla and Giddi passes are further reminders of recent, in the historical sense, Israeli-Egyptian battles. Barbed wire fences, or at least those not removed by the bedouin, still surround thousands of acres of minefields.

In the past, those that claimed suzerainty over the Sinai were generally content to secure their defences of communications across it and extract its limited mineral wealth. The Pharaohs mined turquoise and copper, and the main non-strategic prize in the latter part of this century has been the oilfields of the Red Sea littoral.

But 20th century technology wedded to the Middle East's geo-political imperatives have also produced dreams of taming and settling the desert. After occupying it in 1967 the Israelis hatched tractors and modern methods of irrigation to the covenant to make small areas of the desert bloom. Their biggest settlement, Yamit, on the Mediterranean coast, was blown up when they left following the 1979 peace treaty which returned the Sinai to Egypt. The twisted steel and crumpled masonry of its houses are as grotesque a monument to monotheistic myopia as the war-battered villages of Lebanon's Chouf mountains. Ironically, though perhaps fittingly, Egypt has renamed the abandoned Jewish settlement Salsam (peace).

But the situation is not totally negative. Farmers around the town of Rafah, through which the Egyptian border with Israeli-occupied Gaza courses in a thick stream of barbed wire, have adopted Israeli irrigation methods to increase crop yields. "We learnt from them," says Hamid Mohammed, tending plastic covered drip-irrigated rows of spinach within sight of an Israeli blockhouse topped by a large but limp flag. "We can grow more this way."

The Egyptian government, as anxious as the Israelis were to mould the peninsula into an integral part of the state, has its own ambitious plans to make the

desert bloom. Too ambitious, some would say. In 1978 President Anwar Sadat spoke glowingly of a time when greenery would cover the entire Sinai. That milk and honey vision was widely optimistic. But there are still hopes of settling nearly a million people from the crowded Nile Valley in Sinai before the year 2000.

The Sinai Development Authority, formed after the peace treaty was signed, is optimistic, in a cautious way, that the goal can be achieved. "Our capacity to get things done is often not as big as our dreams," admits Ali Abu Zeit, the authority's head. "But the Sinai is the spoilt child of Egypt and is getting more development money than any other region."

Pipes carrying water from the Nile have already been sunk beneath the Suez Canal and will shortly reach Al Arish, where nearly a third of the Sinai's 180,000 inhabitants live. More than half a million acres of land, most of it close to the canal, has been earmarked for irrigation projects which will require some 1.5m cubic metres of Nile water each day.

Yet current government expenditure on the Sinai amounts to little more than \$100m annually, less than 10 per cent of the value of the oil pumped from the Sinai's oilfields. It may not be enough to do more than ruffe a few dunes in one of the world's harshest environments, where the average annual rainfall is less than two inches a year. Indeed even the

track of aircraft and avoid mid-air collisions, would also be an inviting target.

Computer viruses are designed to replicate themselves like a living organism, spreading throughout a computer network, government scientists said. Viruses could spread from one computer system to another during electronic linkups and might lie dormant and undetected for months or years before going on the attack at predetermined time.

Before it began to disrupt a system, a computer virus would be inconspicuous, containing only a few hundred "bytes" — the engineers' unit for measuring computer memory — in a programme that might total hundreds of thousands.

Even the most carefully designed computer security barriers could be vulnerable, the Georgetown report said.

Security officials refused, in interviews, to confirm or deny whether any computer virus attacks against U.S. systems had taken place or been detected.

Of great concern to U.S. computer security experts is the relative ease with which engineers have managed to come up with effective computer viruses during research.

Kupperman said the technology was within the grasp of some government-backed terrorists.

A terrorist's main hurdle, said government computer expert

James Shipley, would be gaining access to sensitive U.S. computers. Some machines were isolated in special protected rooms, connected with closely monitored lines.

Shipley said the likelihood of the most secure government computers being penetrated by computer viruses was "close to zero", but some congressional security experts are sceptical, saying many sensitive U.S. computers need more safeguards.

U.S. officials admitted not all sensitive U.S. computers were totally secure and some security systems could be penetrated. Other sources said experimental test viruses had quickly overcome security barriers and disrupted computers.

Some private researchers and defence contractors are allowed to link up with Pentagon computer nets and many banks offer computer telephone hookups for home banking — two possible entry points for computer viruses, experts said.

Another way the viruses could spread was via computer disks, which computer users often copy and share.

Scientists say the computer virus idea may have originated in a 1975 science fiction novel, "The Shockwave Rider." Intrigued computer buffs began tinkering and by the early 1980s had turned fiction into fact with experimental viruses.

"Computer virus" threat to key defence, banking systems

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. scientists are struggling to protect computer networks — vital in areas ranging from national defence to banking and air traffic control — against a potentially devastating weapon called the "computer virus."

Computer security experts in the U.S. government told Reuters the "virus" was a high-technology equivalent of germ warfare: a destructive electronic code that could be inserted into a computer's programme, possibly over a telephone line, by a secret agent, terrorist or white collar criminal.

When a computer virus attacks, it wipes out crucial memory data or otherwise causes "high-tech" equipment to behave erratically, according to the sources who spoke on condition they not be identified.

They said a computer virus attack might bring a major weapons system to a standstill, throw a computer-guided missile off course or wipe out computer-stored intelligence.

"The government is concerned and we are actively pursuing solutions," one security official said.

Computer security experts had created experimental viruses in a bid to find defences, but there had been no breakthroughs.

Both the military's computer nets and the highly-automated U.S. banking system are vulnerable to "catastrophic

collapse," according to a recent Georgetown University report by a group of government and private counter-terror experts.

Urging that the pace of defensive research be quickened, it said the computer virus threat was "a matter of great concern ... there do not appear to be any quick and easy defences or overall solutions to the problem."

As to the banking system, the report warned: "The four major electronic funds-transfer networks alone carry the equivalent of the federal budget every two to four hours."

These almost incomprehensible sums of money are processed solely between the memories of computers, using communications systems that are vulnerable to physical disruption and electronic tampering.

An American Bankers Association spokesman said banking system computer security was adequate and was being upgraded.

Robert Kupperman, a former White House counter-terror adviser now with Georgetown University, said the computer virus was in its infancy as a weapon but could become a devastating instrument of electronic warfare or terrorism.

The "Star Wars" space-based anti-missile shield President Reagan is backing would be highly dependent on computers and might be stopped dead by a computer virus, Kupperman said.

America's government-run air traffic control system, which relies heavily on computers to keep

track of aircraft and avoid mid-air collisions, would also be an inviting target.

Computer viruses are designed to replicate themselves like a living organism, spreading throughout a computer network, government scientists said. Viruses could spread from one computer system to another during electronic linkups and might lie dormant and undetected for months or years before going on the attack at predetermined time.

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A terrorist's main hurdle, said government computer expert

Star of electronic game becomes Japanese youth cult hero

By Caroline Dale
Reuters

TOKYO — The new youth cult hero here is a big-nosed, mustachioed, flat-capped Italian who stands two inches tall.

He is super Mario, star of an electronic game, and his sole aim in life is to rescue a peach princess. The game, "Super Mario Brothers," was devised by Nintendo Company, whose roots go back to making packs of cards 100 years ago.

Nintendo says it sold 6.4 million games starring Mario and his brother Luigi in the six months to February. The game plugs into a television set and costs 14,800 yen (\$95).

Mario's face also adorns children's T-shirts, shoes, stationery, noodles, chocolate, ice cream — "Mario" lines marketed by 80 different companies.

Mario has also become the first electronics game character to become a cinema star.

"If you don't know who Super Mario is you can't understand what the talk at school is about," one six-year old boy said.

Mario's game is a voyage saga. He encounters fantastic obstacles whose nonsense-sounding names have become a new common language among six to 15-year-olds.

Young fingers pushing buttons on a remote control panel manoeuvre Mario through various landscapes infested with hazards as he tries to reach a castle to rescue the peach princess. He scores points on the way.

"Mario's image just came to me from a mass of fantasy and romance stories I enjoy, but he had to have bold features to show up on his tiny frame," Nintendo

illustrator Shigeru Miyamoto, 33, told Reuters.

At one stage in the game, a skilful player can make Mario jump and hit a box containing a large mushroom. If Mario eats it, he doubles in size to earn more points.

"That is an Alice in Wonderland-type idea, I suppose," Miyamoto said.

He said the character was dubbed Mario by colleagues who said the big nose, moustache and overalls resembled the Italian caretaker at the small New York hotel where Nintendo employees stay in the United States.

And Brother Luigi? "To make it a game we had to have two similar characters to compete and 'Luigi' is Japanese for 'similar'," Miyamoto added. "He is a hero, but of the chapsque type."

The background music is a children's favourite tune.

Jerky, quirky ditties composed by Nintendo staff will be released on a long-playing record this summer, says Takehito Kimura of Dentsu, Japan's largest advertising agency which handles the Nintendo account.

Nintendo has just launched a more complicated "Super Mario brothers two" on floppy disc which needs a drive costing another 15,000 yen (\$95).

The company hopes Super Mario and Luigi will become stars worldwide, just as Japan's robot toys stampeded around the globe two years ago.

Nintendo exported around 200,000 Super Mario games to New York state earlier this year to test at its U.S. subsidiary, Nintendo Entertainment Systems, and is confident Super Mario will move fast off the U.S. toy store shelves by Christmas.

U.S. expects quality photos from Neptune

THE world's largest radio telescope is being equipped to give scientists more and better pictures when the U.S. spacecraft Voyager 2 reaches the planet Neptune in August, 1989.

The telescope, located near Socorro, New Mexico, in the southwestern United States, is being fitted with new receivers for its 27

radio antennae. (Each antenna measures 24.6 metres in diameter) so that they can receive signals from the spacecraft.

Signals sent back from Neptune (some 4.3 billion kilometres from the sun) will be the weakest ever received from a spacecraft, much weaker than the signals received from Voyager during its recent

successful encounter with the planet Uranus. However, a close encounter with Neptune (Voyager will fly within 3,520 kilometres of the planet) combined with the signal enhancement obtained by the telescope, is expected to give scientists the same high quality pictures.

—USIA

U.S. swimmer earns first gold in world tourney

MADRID (R) — Greg Louganis, competing against himself more than his Chinese rivals, gave the U.S. their first gold medal at the world swimming championships here Monday with a masterful display in the men's springboard diving final.

The double Olympic and world champion notched up five perfect scores of 10, won seven of the 11 rounds and surrendered the lead only once early on.

China's Tan Liangde, runner-up to the American in the 1984 Olympics, again took silver but trailed by more than 50 points.

The bronze went to another Chinese, Li Hongping, who fought back after a disastrous fourth dive left him last of the 12 finalists to go one better than his fourth place in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Mark Bradshaw of the U.S. came in fourth with Austria's Niki Stajkovic fifth and Albin Kilat of West Germany sixth.

Louganis dispelled any doubts about his chances of retaining his world crown after a patchy qualifying performance Sunday with a stunning 10th dive.

Spinning backwards through one-and-a-half somersaults and three-and-a-half twists, he entered the water ramrod straight and with barely a splash to score 90.06 points.

It was the highest individual total of the day and the 26-year-old champion broke into a huge grin as he left the pool.

But his final effort, an even more difficult reverse three-and-a-half somersault, brought what for him was only a modest haul of 77.7 points and left him just short of his personal best score with a final total of 750.06. He said afterwards that he grew

nervous, knowing that the record was within reach. "I knew I was diving well and I knew I had an opportunity of breaking the highest score going into the last dive," he said. "But it looks like I need a little more work."

Asked what he was thinking before he made his final dive, he said: "What I always think. No matter what happens, my mother still loves me." His mother was watching at poolside.

Louganis now turns to the highboard where he is going for a third world title to add to his Los Angeles crown.

Though he plans to continue his acting career, shooting a second film in Los Angeles over the winter, he said he will resume training in Florida next February and carry on competing as long as he keeps improving.

"Once you dominate your event, the others catch up with you... I've got them working pretty hard," he said.

That was a problem he forecast for 15-year-old Gao Min of China, winner of the women's springboard here with a record total.

Earlier, world record-holder Alex Baumann of Canada earned a late reprieve after being disqualified during the heats of the 400 metres individual medley relay at the world swimming championships.

Egypt, Iraq and Kuwait advance in Arab volleyball championships

AMMAN (R) — African champions Egypt beat Palestine and Iraq beat Syria, both by 3-0, to top their groups in the last preliminary round of the fourth Arab volleyball championships.

Egypt defeated Palestine 15-8, 15-6, 15-3 in less than an hour Sunday night while Iraq fought hard to beat Syria 15-11, 15-10, 15-4.

Kuwait overcame Bahrain 3-1 (15-4, 15-7, 13-15, 15-7). Saudi Arabia had already

reached the semi-finals.

The championships end Tuesday with Egypt, back in the

tournament after a five-year political ban, the favourites to win the trophy.

Group A						
	P	W	L	GA	GF	Pts.
Egypt	3	3	0	9	3	6
Saudi Arabia	3	2	1	8	4	5
Jordan	3	1	2	5	6	4
Palestine	3	0	3	0	9	3

Group B						
	P	W	L	GA	GF	Pts.
Iraq	4	4	0	12	1	8
Kuwait	4	3	1	10	4	7
Bahrain	4	2	2	8	6	6
Syria	4	1	3	3	9	5
Lebanon	4	0	4	0	3	4

Baghdad Select beats Brazil's Americano

BAGHDAD (R) — Baghdad Select, fielding most of the Iraqi World Cup squad, beat Americano of Brazil 2-0 (half-time 0-0) in their opening match in the Saddam International Soccer Tournament here Sunday night.

The Baghdad team, who overwhelmed Faisali of Jordan 5-0 on the first day of the competition, faced a tough first half with the speedy Brazilians playing stylish football against their hard-tackling defence.

It was not until the 78th minute that Ahmad Radhi, who scored Iraq's only goal in the World Cup in Mexico, headed home the first goal.

Ahmad came back in the 87th minute with a 25-yard shot that rebounded off the Brazilian goalkeeper for Raheem Hameed to push it home.

Students of Iraq scored their second win of the tournament, beating Faisali 3-0 (half-time 1-0) with goals from Nezar Ashraf, Hashem Ruwaydh and Ali Ajeel.

The coach of the Kenyan national team, Mohammad Hassan, blamed Baghdad's 45 Centigrade heat for the loss of his side's 2-1 loss to students, the Iraqi League champions, in the opening match of the tournament on Friday.

Hassan told Reuters: "We should have played much better, but our players were affected by the heat."

He said Kenya's participation in the tournament with top teams from South America, Africa and Asia would help it build a more experienced side for the African Games which Kenya will host next year.

The Kenyans have still to play Faisali, Baghdad Select and Americano in the first round of the 14-day tournament.

Earlier former national striker Falah Hassan led Al Zawra' to their first win in the Saddam International Soccer Tournament

when the Iraqi club side trounced more experienced Kuwait Cup Winners Fahahel 3-0 (half-time 1-0) in group two night.

Falah, 34, masterminded the win and made two of the goals, the first from an indirect free kick inside the penalty area in the 13th minute. Adnan Hamad netted from close range.

Iraq's World Cup striker Inad Abed celebrated his transfer to Al Zawra' with a header in the 62nd minute following a cross from Falah and Abdul Ameer Naji completed scoring in the 79th minute.

Group standings after the second day of the tournament.

Group 1:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Baghdad	1	1	—	—	5	0	2
Students	1	1	—	—	2	1	2
Kenya	1	—	—	1	1	2	0
Faisali	1	—	—	1	0	5	0
Americano	—	—	—	—	—	—	0

Group 2:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Police	1	1	—	—	4	0	2
Al Zawra'	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
Fahahel	1	—	—	1	0	3	0
Widad	1	—	—	1	0	4	0
Rasheed	—	—	—	—	—	—	0

Prost cruises to easy win in Austrian Grand Prix, may retain world crown

ZELTWEG, Austria (R) — Frenchman Alain Prost improved his hopes of retaining the world championship crown by winning the Austrian Grand Prix with consummate ease Sunday.

Prost, who until last weekend appeared to be struggling with a McLaren which had lost its

competitive edge, lapped the entire field on the way to his 24th Grand Prix victory.

Bidding to become the first man to win the title in successive years since Australian Jack Brabham in 1959-60, Prost moved into second place in the world championship standings after none of the other top seven drivers made it to the finish.

Prost's victory lifted him onto the 53-point mark, two behind Briton Nigel Mansell, who dropped out when his Williams

suffered transmission trouble.

Although Mansell remains Prost's biggest threat, twice world champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil is still well placed just eight points off the pace although engine trouble forced the withdrawal of his Williams in the searing heat of Zeltweg.

The conditions took a heavy toll and Brazilian Ayrton Senna, who began the day second overall on 48 points, slipped below Prost after retiring following several visits to the pits in his Lotus.

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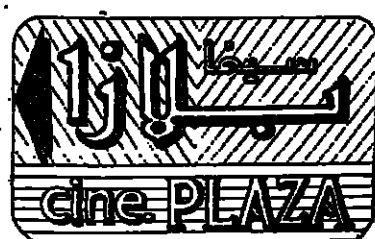
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Cinema RAINBOW

Tel: 623133

RAW DEAL

Performances 3:30, 5:30, 9:00, 10:45



Cinema OPERA

Tel: 675573

RED HET

Performances 3:15, 5:00, 8:45, 10:45



Cine-Theatre Philadelphia

Tel: 634144, 634149

KARATE KID PART II

Performances 3:30, 6:30, 10:45



Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

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2) FAMILY SWIMMING POOL

Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45



LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4940/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3925/30	Canadian dollars
	2.0620/30	West German marks
	2.2322/42	Dutch guilders
	1.6633/43	Swiss francs
	42.65/70	Belgian francs
	6.7050/100	French francs
	1419/1420	Italian lire
	153.85/95	Japanese yen
	6.9200/50	Swedish crowns
	7.3350/400	Norwegian crowns
	7.7425/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	337.30/337.80	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares ended the day quietly higher in continuation of last week's firm trend. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 index was 7.8 up at 1,609.7.

Bullish weekend press comment and Wall Street's higher close on Friday contributed to buying sentiment with interest also helped by bid news in a variety of sectors.

The modest turnover reflected the lack of a definitive factor while hopes of a round of international interest rate cuts remain. The market was encouraged by news towards the close of a better than expected provisional July U.K. public sector borrowing requirement net-repayment of £200 million.

Government bonds steadied to close with gains of 1/16 point after early 1/4 point losses. Dealers said trading activity was low and after an easier opening prices recovered with sterling helped by the better than expected July U.K. PSBR figures.

BAT rose 11p to 406, Rank Organisation 10p to 492. Blue Circle 7p to 533 after recent declines and Courtaulds a penny to 270 while Glaxo lost 7p to 993, ICI 4p, 5p to 1,004 and British Telecom 2p to 202.

Oils featured, making ground mainly on the back of spot crude prices, dealers said. Shell gained 19p to 875. B.P. 12p to 613, Britoil 10p to 133 and Lasso 5p to 131.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today's full moon brings to light all sort of unique and original ideas that you have and that you can express.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Fascinating friends can be of assistance to you. Take it easy and rest up tonight with your mate.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Doing something that can enhance your reputation in public is wisely handled. Be congenial.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Make the changes that will add to your stature in business. Making new contacts is a good idea.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Business matters could prove quite interesting during the daytime. Avoid strangers.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get in touch with friends who are progressive and they can be of assistance to you. Avoid expensive pleasures.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get your duties handled with originality and forget the out-moded. Be concerned about family life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plan to get into unusual recreations and enjoy them. Take time before you answer some important message.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can gain much progress at home during the daytime. Steer clear of a new contact who might depress you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can communicate well with others. Be with a chosen friend in the outside world.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to make your property more charming. Be soothing with your loved one in the evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can be quite dramatic in going after your personal goals and get good results thereby.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You are inspired to achieve your personal aims. Look to an advisor for added ideas that are good.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be unusually bright during childhood and should be encouraged so that the career can start early in some modern profession. However, later in life your progeny will be more conventional and will be able to live very comfortably on savings.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Aug. 9, '86 and ending Wednesday, Aug. 13, '86. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Petra Bank	11200	25538	2,350	2,280	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	707	1492	2,110	2,110	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	1500	2972	1,990	1,980	1,000
Jordan Gulf Bank	3349	4721	1,420	1,400	1,000
Housing Bank	13100	20967	1,610	1,600	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	4950	10008	2,020	2,020	1,000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5,000
Bank of Jordan	136	2293	17.00	16.800	5,000
Arab Bank	1660	196730	119.000	115.500	10,000
Jordan National Bank	19092	45738	2,420	2,410	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development	8450	6581	0.780	0.780	1,000
Islamic Investment House	10134	8107	0.800	0.800	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	8016	6083	1.270	1.260	1,000
Finance and Credit Corporation	10600	3372	0.810	0.820	1,000
National Financial Investments	4600	5441	1.200	1.200	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Securities Corporation	1728	1589	0.940	0.920	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1,000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10,000
Jordan French Insurance	1300	3286	2.540	2.520	1,000
REFCO Life Insurance	3607	1477	0.900	0.910	1,000
Jordan Insurance	500	4950	10.000	9.900	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	650	478	0.730	0.730	1,000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	500	365	0.720	0.730	1,000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arabian Seas Insurance	225	383	1.700	1.700	1,000
Philadelphia Insurance	500	380	0.760	0.760	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jerusalem Insurance	378	509	1.400	1.350	1,000
Petra Jordan Insurance	3312	1192	0.360	0.360	1,000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	0.760	0.760	1,000
Universal Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
General Insurance	1628	3337	2.050	2.050	1,000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10,000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10,000
Darco for Housing and Investment	2418	1430	0.610	0.600	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Aqaro)	3077	1508	0.500	0.490	1,000
Arab Development and Investment	500	250	0.500	0.500	1,000
General Investment	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	3545	2359	0.680	0.660	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	2000	400	0.710	0.700	1,000
Jordanian Electric Power	5480	8197	1.500	1.490	1,000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab International Hotels	1900	646	0.340	0.340	1,000
Garage Owners Federation Office	300	1200	4.170	4.090	1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	2781	2041	0.720	0.740	1,000
Dar Al Shabab Press, Printing, Publishing and Distributing	500	200	0.420	0.400	1,000
Jordan Dairy	5787	6648	1.150	1.140	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	18298	42090	2.260	2.320	1,000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	3719	2253	0.610	0.600	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	4013	8506	2.110	2.130	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	1145	1826	1.590	1.610	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	244	1054	4.400	4.320	1,000
Aladdin Industries	7625	4106	0.550	0.540	1,000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	6950	5806	0.840	0.840	1,000
Jordan Worst Mills	191	735	3.900	3.850	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	600	593	0.970	0.980	1,000
Chemical Industries	4400	4227	0.970	0.960	1,000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	2450	1230	0.510	0.500	1,000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	118	175	1.500	1.480	1,000
National Steel Industries	3900	4566	1.170	1.180	1,000
Universal Chemical Industries	500	350	0.730	0.700	1,000
General Mining	1980	3623	1.820	1.830	1,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	3166	22216	7.040	7.020	5,000
Jordan Lime & Brick	1853	389	0.220	0.210	1,000
National Industries	1150	726	0.640	0.630	1,000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	5900	6287	1.080	1.070	1,000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	4430	5538	1.250	1.250	1,000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	60	157	2.620	2.620	1,000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1,000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	3550	888	0.300	0.250	1,000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Tanning	122	219	1.800	1.800	1,000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	107	391	3.650	3.650	1,000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	5,000
Grand Total	216605	501129	—	—	—

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Japan, Taiwan top world in business competitiveness

GENEVA (R) — Japan has edged the United States out of first place in international business competitiveness, according to an annual survey conducted by a private economic research group here.

The EMF Foundation said Switzerland, in third position, rated highest among European countries investigated, with Britain, France and Italy trailing far behind in 15th, 16th and 18th place.

The survey, published Sunday analysed and compared the competitive strength and business environments of 23 member states of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and nine developing nations.

The survey said Japan's success was due largely to control of inflation, the share of corporate profits in national income, the national savings rate and resultant cheap and abundant finance for industry, and low real interest rates.

Other assets were the ability of Japanese companies to adapt to shifting world economic structures, efficient research and development, innovative production techniques, success in searching out and exploiting new technologies, and a highly-skilled and motivated work force.

Taiwan led the Third World rankings, followed by Singapore, whose general economic productivity, the survey said, exceeded that of 17th-placed Ireland and approached Britain's.

Hong Kong came third and South Korea fourth in this section.

The EMF Foundation said the survey considered a wide range of indicators including production costs, productivity, economic infrastructure, workers' motivation, state intervention and social and political stability. It also combined statistical data with opinions of business executives.

Countries were ranked on each of 340 criteria and the results consolidated to give an overall score, the EMF Foundation said.

The review said the overall picture in the United States was favourable, but business confidence was more subdued than last year and prospects for near- and medium-term investment growth were rated poor.

Business executives complained that the government's home and foreign economic policies lacked coordination, and said U.S. industry was being damaged by foreign protectionism.

The greatest advantage enjoyed by U.S. companies were relative freedom from restrictions, deregulation, fiscal incentives, eased anti-trust rules and a social and political environment that allowed them to adapt more quickly to changed circumstances, the survey said.

Israel cuts budget

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government, under pressure from the United States to enact wide-ranging economic reforms, agreed Sunday night to cut its \$19 billion budget this year by \$215 million.

Finance Minister Moshe Nissim announced the cuts on television after a six-hour cabinet session. State radio said the vote for the cuts was 14 in favour and five against, with four abstentions.

American Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, told Prime Minister Shimon Peres in a letter last week that the present high level of U.S. economic aid was unlikely to be maintained and urged Israel to carry out economic reforms.

Israel, the biggest recipient of American aid this year is receiving \$1.2 billion in economic grants, \$1.8 billion in credits towards military purchases and an emergency payment of \$750 million.

Mr. Nissim said the cuts fell short of his \$280 million proposal because of disagreement over defence cuts. A government spokesman said Mr. Nissim, Mr. Peres and Defence Minister Mr. Yitzhak Rabin would decide on the military cuts.

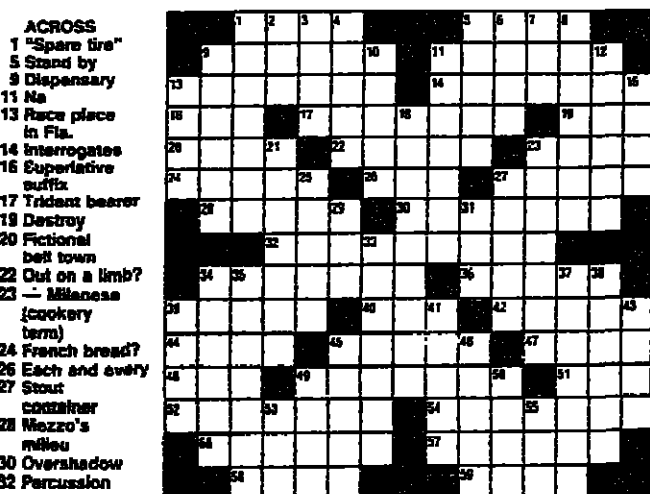
He said he would meet Mr. Shultz in Washington next month to discuss new ideas including tax reforms and the capital market and the sale of public properties to the private sector.

Malawi devalues kwacha

LILONGWE (R) — Malawi has devalued its currency, the kwacha, by 10 per cent. The ministry of finance and the reserve bank announced the decision was intended to "ensure the competitiveness of Malawi's exports on markets abroad in the light of continuing transport difficulties, the country faces."

About 60 per cent of Malawi's vital exports of tea, sugar and coffee are routed through South Africa, which has said threats of international sanctions against it to end apartheid will harm all states in the region. Malawi, a land-locked country, also relies on South Africa for more than a third of its imports. The kwacha is pegged against a basket of other currencies. Before the devaluation, the rate was 1.8 kwacha to the U.S. dollar.

THE Daily Crossword by S.E. Wilkinson



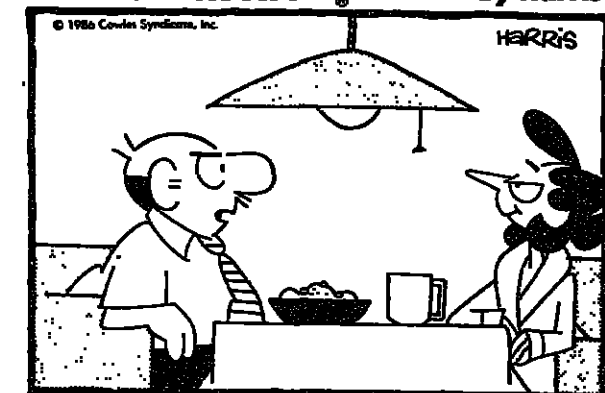
ACROSS
1 "Spare tire"
5 Stand by
9 Dispensary
11 He
13 Race place in Fla.
14 Investigate
16 Superlative suffix
17 Tridact beaver
18 Destroy
20 Fictional best town
22 Out on a limb?
23 — illness (cookery term)
24 French bread?
26 Each and every
27 Stout
28 Mezzo's milieu
30 Overshadow
32 Percussion instrument
34 Shaded walk
36 Bird park figure?

DOWN
1 Varies —
2 Humiliated
3 At once, once
4 Not
5 Haunt
6 Adorned at song
7 A Taylor

8 Buffaloes
9 Fidal
10 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
11 Put the kibosh on
12 Bar of corn
13 Unbeating
15 Do over
18 ESP
19 Vague
20 Treacher
21 " — a river"
22 Cavity
23 Pair portable
24 Journal
25 Waldo
26 Stadle
27 Pasta dish
28 Entangled or
29 Mashed wood
30 Shoot up
31 Pushover
32 Solid baroque
33 Cylindrical
34 Countrified
35 Macadamize
36 Broad-topped sequence

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:
CLAMP MARKS VISED
ALIAN OUTLINE ELIAE
RUAIE SIRDIA AXLES
SIATAIS FRAISTED
BILIS EARTH
FLAXISEED GAISSED
OHTIO DOALL EPI
OIS MAINE NED
TIRI FLINKS MARSIS
REXTION GOLDIIEIST
EIRAGT GIEIRIN
DEISITS PIEROIN
IRAN AUDIO YORA
VINE UBOAT AYER
ENRIS RAGIS RIEKI

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Answer: THE "CYCLE PUPIL HAUNCH MAYHEM"
Yesterday's Jumbles: CYCLE PUPIL HAUNCH MAYHEM
Answer: He'll never break his word in a love letter, except with this—A HYPHEN

Sixteen blacks die in South African political violence

Tutu urges whites to join 'winning side'

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — Sixteen people died in South African violence as an international sanctions campaign mounted Monday on the eve of a special parliamentary session.

As the South African government made plain it would not bow to international and foreign pressure to scrap race discrimination, a land mine blast killed three women and two children — all black — in the eastern Transvaal Sunday.

The white-led government's Bureau for Information said seven people had died in weekend political strife in the country's black townships and police reported they had killed four black men they claimed were guerrillas.

The U.S. Senate approved tough sanctions against South Africa this weekend amid an international clamour for Pretoria to scrap apartheid and talk to the black nationalist African National Congress (ANC).

A government spokesman Monday blamed the African National Congress for weekend landmine explosions that killed two babies and three other blacks, calling the killers friends of a liberal U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy and Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

"During the past two months,

these dastardly and indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilians of all population groups have caused the untimely deaths of nine people, of whom two were children," Deputy Information Minister Louis Nel told a news conference.

"The ANC, supported by the South African Communist Party, is responsible for these horrendous deeds of terror, and yet the ANC is not condemned by the outside world," Nel said. "These scourges and the tacit support given to the perpetrators of these murders, friends of the (U.S. Sen.) Ted Kennedy, Bill S. Hawke and Bill Grays again demonstrate the double standards applied to South Africa."

William Gray is a black U.S. Democratic congressman from Pennsylvania.

The extra six-week parliament sitting was earlier seen as a hint that the government had major reforms it wanted to push through. But since Pretoria imposed nationwide emergency rule on the country in June to quell a two-year-old surge of black revolt, liberal hopes have faded.

On Sunday night Tiaan Van Der Merwe, of the white opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP), told Reuters: "There's no indication of any new government (reform) plans."

Meanwhile black South African Bishop Desmond Tutu Sunday urged his white countrymen to join the anti-apartheid struggle and said blacks cared about freedom for both races.

The Nobel Peace laureate and anti-apartheid activist said in a sermon in Kingdome that Roman Emperor Nero, Adolf Hitler and Idi Amin had all become part of the "flotsam and jetsam of history."

We say to tyrants everywhere, you have power today... but you are going to bite the dust," Tutu said.

"So we say to the white people of South Africa, come and join the winning side. We say so because we care for you."

Earlier, at a grave-side ceremony in honour of black Jamaican leader Marcus Garvey, Tutu said South African blacks cared about the freedom of whites.

"Freedom is indivisible... the only way we can be free is to be free together, black and white together," he said.

White South Africans now spend so much time protecting

their freedom that they have no time to enjoy it, he said.

Tutu, the archbishop-designate of Cape Town, began a five-day visit to Jamaica Saturday.

N. Zealand imposes sanctions

WELLINGTON (R) — Prime Minister David Lange said New Zealand will impose limited sanctions on South Africa in response to a call for increased pressure on Pretoria from Commonwealth leaders in London earlier this month.

Mr. Lange told journalists the sanctions will include terminating a sales agency agreement between state-owned Air New Zealand and South African Airways, a ban on an unspecified range of agricultural imports and an embargo on new investment in South Africa.

The sanctions will take effect from Dec. 1 this year. New Zealand exports to South Africa are very limited, Mr. Lange said.

In October last year, following the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in the Bahamas, New Zealand banned the import of krugerrands and the export of computer equipment that could be used by the South African security forces.

Canadians criticise admission of Tamils

TORONTO (R) — Many Canadians have expressed anger at being misled by 155 Tamils brought to the country from West Germany and said they should not be allowed to stay.

"I'm mad as hell," said one letter in the Toronto Sun newspaper. "I feel like the country of Canada has been violated. The refugees have shown Canadians by lying that they have little respect for our laws and for us."

The Tamils, who were pulled from two lifeboats off the Newfoundland coast last Monday, first said they had sailed from India. But after investigations by West German police, they admitted Saturday that they had arrived from West Germany.

The refugees were given permission to live and work in Canada for a year and apply for welfare and free medical care.

"Our unemployment level is too high for us to support refugees who lie in order to get into our country," another letter to the Toronto Sun said.

A third said: "I think we should send them back and if the government doesn't want to pay for it I will start a fund to send them back."

Immigration Minister Benoit Bouchard said Canada was obliged under the terms of the 1954 Geneva convention to accept all refugees from countries such as Sri Lanka where they faced political oppression.

"It was just a human act by this country... we cannot just leave people on boats. An we do not deport (Sri Lankans)," he said.

Canada has had a policy of not deporting Sri Lankans since 1983, when fighting broke out on the island between the Tamil Hindu minority and Sinhalese Buddhist majority.

But Toronto-area members of parliament said they had received hundreds of calls from constituents who felt the government acted too hastily.

"They feel Canada's humanitarian stance is being abused and these people jumped the queue when they could have made a legitimate refugee application," said a spokesman for MP Barbara McDougall.

One letter published by the Toronto Sun Sunday said the Sri Lankans should be allowed to stay because they faced political and religious persecution at home and Sun columnist Barbara Amiel said the refugees had been driven by desperation.

"The 155 Sri Lankans, who demonstrated such tenacity and ingenuity and heart-wrenching desire to get to this land, have certainly fulfilled a good part of their admission requirements by simply getting here," she wrote.

Two of the Tamils said in an interview in the Toronto Star they had spent most of the 12-day voyage locked in a ship's hold with limited food and water.

Raja Rajaratnam, 35, and Siva Sivakumar, 22 said one couple threatened to commit suicide with their 11-month-old baby because they did not have enough food for the child.

"If I had known what it was going to be like, I never would have gone," Sivakumar said. He said toilet facilities consisted of three buckets.

Pakistani opposition starts protests; 3 die

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Opposition forces began nationwide protests Monday in what was widely regarded as the most serious challenge to President Mohammed Zia Ul Haq since he took power in a 1977 coup.

Protesters set fire to vehicles and blocked roads in the southern city of Karachi, and police tried to disperse them with tear gas and baton charges, witnesses said.

On Sunday, police in Karachi fired to disperse mobs on the fifth day of widespread rioting, wounding at least 10 people, including three children. Three of the protesters died in a hospital early Monday, officials there said.

The Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), an alliance of 11 opposition parties headed by Benazir Bhutto, called for huge protests beginning Monday to demand Gen. Zia's removal.

The opposition leaders in messages sent from hiding to Pakistani newspapers that the agitation would not end until Gen. Zia was ousted. How many protesters take part will be viewed as a major barometer of opposition support.

In addition to the rioting in Karachi, where dozens have been wounded in the last few days, angry crowds burned four railway stations in the Sardu district of Sind province Sunday, local journalists reported.

Soliders were called out to help police in Hala, about 240 kilometres north of Karachi, after crowds set fire to three banks and a post office and tried to wreck the railroads station, witnesses said.

Hyderabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi and other towns hit by rioting earlier were reported quieter Sunday, with people staying home to celebrate the Muslim holiday.

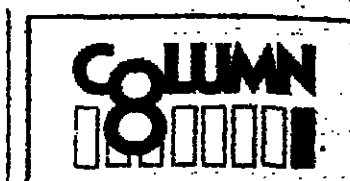
Government leaders denounced opposition forces in statements Sunday, accusing them of fomenting the violence.

"We will shun our differences by promoting love, brotherhood and mutual tolerance as it is the demand of national solidarity," Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said in a message issued to mark the holiday.

Gen. Zia appointed Mr. Junejo to head the civilian government that took over in December after almost nine years of martial law.

Gen. Zia remains president and army commander. In 1977, he deposed Miss Bhutto's father, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was later hanged after being convicted of planning to assassinate a political opponent.

The current rash of rioting flared across the country after the government cracked down on its political foes on Wednesday, banning meetings and arresting hundreds of opposition leaders in pre-dawn raids on their homes.



Violence erupts at rap concert

LONG BEACH, California (AP) — A wave of fights and stabbings erupted during a "rap" music concert, injuring at least 17 people and prompting police to storm the arena and shut down the show. The fight was the third since last month where violence erupted at a concert involving the rap group Run DMC. Some arrests were made, but the number was unavailable, police said. The violence began early in the concert at the 14,000-seat arena, where Run DMC was joined by Whodini and LL Cool J., said police and concertgoers. "There are a bunch of people going crazy," said fire dispatcher Craig Beck. "During the concert there were stabbings and riots," he said. "Shots were fired in front and at the rear of the arena." At least 17 people injured were taken to three hospitals, said Sue McCants, another fire dispatcher.

Queen, Duke and grocers head list of U.K.'s richest

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II, the Duke of Westminster and members of the Sainsbury grocery family were identified Monday as Britain's richest people. Despite the record 3.2 million people unemployed — 13.3 per cent of the work force — the number of millionaires in Britain jumped from 4,000 to 20,000 in the past five years, said Professor Anthony Shorrocks of Exeter University. He attributed the increase to tax changes and falling inflation. The professor's survey of the nation's wealth said the Queen has a huge fortune whose extent has never been officially disclosed. The Duke of Westminster, 34-year-old Gerald Cavendish Grosvenor, who owns large areas of central London as well as country estates and property abroad, is worth up to £3 billion (\$4.5 billion), he said. The Sainsburys, who own a grocery chain, are worth about £2 billion (\$3 billion), he said.

'Britons prefer freedom to money'

LONDON (R) — The British are not as interested in getting rich as the Japanese or the Americans. Instead, they value freedom to live as they like, according to a survey conducted by Gallup Poll. Only nine per cent of Britons said their main goal in life was to get rich, compared with 38 per cent in Japan and 15 per cent in the United States. Seventy per cent of those polled said their main aim was "to live as I like." "To get rich" came second, ahead of eight per cent "to work on behalf of society." According to the poll, conducted for London Weekend Television, 61 per cent of Britons were mainly concerned with having "enough money in the bank." Sixteen per cent wanted "plenty of spare money in the bank" and only two per cent a "great deal of money."

Solomon Islands recaptures most of the escaped prisoners

HONIARA (R) — More than 100 of the prisoners who escaped from the main jail in the Solomon Islands in a mass breakout have been recaptured, police has said. All the prison's 140 inmates fled on Friday night, escaping through a hole cut in a new fence erected after two breakouts last year. A prison spokesman said guard, tricked into thinking that one of the prisoners was seriously ill, was overpowered and had his keys taken.

Deng, Hu become cartoon subjects

PEKING (R) — Cartoons of China's two top leaders have appeared in a major Chinese newspaper in what Western diplomats have said was an unprecedented display of artistic freedom. The Shanghai paper Liberation Daily ran caricatures of Deng Xiaoping, a noted bridge player, playing cards and Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang conducting music. Deng, lampooned as pro-capitalist in newspaper cartoons during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, was shown wielding a fistful of cards marked "Chinese-style modernisation." Hu, wearing a Western business suit and tie, was drawn waving his hands above a caption saying "comrade Yaobang leads us in a new song."

Lawyer links Imelda to Aquino killing

MANILA (R) — A lawyer said Monday he had evidence linking former first lady Imelda Marcos to the murder of Philippine President Corazon Aquino's husband.

Lupino Lazaro told reporters he would seek inclusion of Imelda Marcos as a principal accused if the supreme court orders a retrial into the 1983 murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino at Manila Airport.

The supreme court will hold an open hearing next Tuesday to consider objections to reopening the case against the 26 men, including former Armed Forces Chief Fabian Ver, who were acquitted last December.

Mr. Lazaro is lawyer for the family of Rolando Galman, whom the court decided shot Sen. Aquino. Galman was gunned down by airport security guards.

"I have evidence linking Mrs. Marcos to the assassination. I will bring it out in due time when the supreme court orders a retrial," Mr. Lazaro said.

Mr. Lazaro said Sen. Aquino, longtime political foe of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, was killed on returning home from voluntary exile in the United States.

The murder was widely believed to have been a military plot in which Galman was a scapegoat. It triggered a chain of events that swept Sen. Aquino's widow Corazon to power in

February when a civilian-backed military revolt ended Marcos' 20-year rule. Marcos and Ver fled to Hawaii.

Mr. Lazaro said he might also seek the inclusion of two of Marcos' two former ministers, two other generals and a police chief among the accused for involvement in the murder.

He said he had no solid evidence against Marcos himself and added: "We have to indulge in a very extensive investigation to gather evidence. There is no need to hurry."

Mr. Lazaro said he would like to see the three trial judges who acquitted the accused charged with covering up the crime.

Uganda under pressure to restore kingdoms

NAIROBI (R) — Prince Ronald Mutebi's return to Uganda has raised the stakes in a campaign to restore the Buganda Kingdom abolished in 1967.

The last Kabaka (king) of Buganda, Sir Edward Mutesa, fled to Britain when Idi Amin, then President Milton Obote's army commander, stormed his palace in 1966.

Sir Edward died in the British capital three years later. Prince Ronald, who last visited Kampala in 1976 when his father's body was returned from London for ceremonial burial five years after Amin had overthrown Obote, returned to Uganda on Thursday.

At his first public appearance Sunday, the 32-year-old prince was given a royal welcome in Kampala at St. Paul's Cathedral.

A congregation estimated at 10,000 heard the Protestant Bishop of Namirembe, Misseri Kauma, address him by the controversial title of Ssabataka (elder of elders).

Prince Ronald maintains a diplomatic silence on growing demands from his tribesmen that he be installed as the new Kabaka to lead some three million Baganda, a quarter of Uganda's population and the biggest single tribal group.

But he told Reuters recently that he believed there was a role for him to play in the East African state.

Australian workers refuse to surrender oil rig

PERTH (R) — More than 300 sacked workers who have taken control of Australia's largest offshore oil and gas rig said Monday there would be no surrender and accused their employer of forcing a siege.

The billion-dollar (\$620 million) natural gas rig off the north west tip of Australia was occupied on Friday night in a row over the dismissal of 14 workers, union officials said.

The men feared Woodside Petroleum Ltd, the owners, would use management labour to run the rig if they came off, said Kelvin McCann, a spokesman for the Australian Workers Union (AWU), the largest of three unions involved in the dispute.

"They have virtually put us in a siege situation," he told Reuters by telephone from Karratha, a small town near the rig.

Police and local officials were allowed to land their helicopter Sunday on a barge next to the rig but failed to persuade workers to stop what they said was an illegal sit-in.

Nearly 100 workers had earlier crowded on to the rig's helipad to prevent a police party from landing.

State industrial relations officials were expected to try to resume talks with the workers on the rig Monday.

Woodside warned the workers via a public address system Sunday that they were trespassing and no further talks would be held while they continued to hold the rig, a company spokesman said.

The company sacked all 330 workers on the rig after they went on strike in support of 14 drillers who stopped work last Wednesday over a well they said was dangerous.

The rig, 125 kilometres off Karratha, has enough food to last at least six weeks and has its own desalination plant for fresh water. It is the hub of Australia's giant north west shelf project supplying most of Western Australia's power.

Australia pulls out of joint U.S. military exercise

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia, angered by recent U.S. commercial moves, announced Monday it is pulling out of a planned joint military exercise with the United States because it can't afford to pay for the manoeuvres.

Defence Minister Kim Beazley said participation in the Sept. 5-20 exercise in the Philippines, codenamed Cape Thunder, had been "deferred" in favour of another exercise in May 1987.

Australian officials, expected to reveal soon an austere 1986-87 budget, have voiced growing resentment over subsidised U.S. wheat sales to China and the Soviet Union, traditional Australian markets.

Foreign Minister Bill Hayden

warned Sunday that trade problems with the United States would affect Australia's ability to maintain its regional strategic responsibilities.

Mr. Hayden said that the less money we have to buy defence equipment, to operate in a strategic role and to participate in exercises.

A Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) spokesman said the exercise would have cost \$2.5 million. The official, who did not want to be identified, said that the RAAF budget for the financial year has not been finalised.

Australia has participated in other Cape Thunder exercises in the past.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
1986 Tribune Media Services Inc.

SPEAKING OF THE DEVIL

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ K Q

♥ K 10 3

♦ A 7 3

♣ 8 7 4

EAST

♠ 9 3 3 2

♥ J 7

♦ K J 10 2

♣ Q 8 6

SOUTH

♠ A J 10 4

♥ A 9 8 4 2

♦ 4

♣ A K Q

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass

3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass

6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

7 ♠ Pass 7 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Trump Coup Tommy was celebrating the rarest of events: he had finished 1985 with a profit of \$7 from bridge. Readers of this column who are aware of Tommy's propensity for pitching thousands of points on simple hands, only to be transformed into a master when faced with an unfortunate trump position, will realize what an achievement that was.

Tommy had started 1986 in most promising fashion. After only 12 hands, during which he had butchered three, he and his partner had succeeded in becoming vulnerable. So when this hand came along next, Tommy spared nothing in the

bidding and launched into a grand slam on a hand where he had every reason to suspect that at least one major trump honor was missing.

When dummy appeared, Tommy was galvanized into action. To succeed in his grand slam he decided he would need that seldom-seen play, a Devil's Coup.

He won the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. After crossing to the king of spades to ruff another diamond, he cashed his three club tricks and the queen of spades, then ruffed dummy's last diamond. He cleared the ace of spades to bring the hand down to this position:

NORTH

♠ —

♥ K 10 3

♦ —

♣ —

EAST

♠ 9

♥ —

♦ 8 5

♣ —

SOUTH

♠ 10

♥ A 8

♦ —

♣ —

When Tommy led his ten of spades, West was gone. If he ruffed low, dummy would overruff and the ace and king of trumps would score the last two tricks. So he tried ruffing with the queen. Tommy overruffed with the table's king, then blithely finessed the nine of hearts to bring home his grand slam.

Chernobyl blast victims ask Pravda for more facts

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda published letters Monday from people affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident asking for more facts about the dangers they are facing and what their future may hold.

Describing rumours as an enemy no less dangerous than the radiation released in the April 26 accident, Pravda criticised officials in affected zones for not providing enough information to people with legitimate concerns.

"Above all people are worried by questions about radiation levels," wrote a reader from Kiev, 130 kilometres south of Chernobyl. "Some are asking: Will our children return to Kiev in September or will they spend the winter in pioneer camps?"

Children from Kiev were among more than 100,000 people evacuated after the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. People were moved from a 30-kilometre security zone around the plant and from pockets of southern Byelorussia.

One letter to Pravda came from a group of women from the Gomel region of Byelorussia who were sent to a sanatorium with their infants. Expressing concern about relatives who remained behind, they said they faced insensitivity from local leaders.

Another woman from the Kiev area complained that people had

repeatedly broken into her parents' home in the Chernobyl district following their evacuation, eliciting the comment from Pravda that police should make better efforts to keep order.

The newspaper said it had received many letters from readers concerned about the health of workers inside the Chernobyl plant during the first release of radiation, and answered with a letter from 19 survivors of the blast.

They said they had been sent to a radiological institute in Kiev within five days of the accident and had undergone an intensive course of treatment.

"Many of us were in a grave condition," they wrote, saying their health had now improved and they felt ready soon to go back to their work as firemen and employees of the plant.

The lengthy Pravda article was typical of official press treatment of Chernobyl following an initial news blackout on the accident, which spread radiation across Europe and has resulted in at least 28 deaths.

Soviet construction workers have completed the first of 52 villages being built to house evacuees from the Chernobyl security zone, the official newspaper Selskaya Zhizn said Sunday.

People have begun moving into 150 detached houses built in the

past 50 days in the new village of Temopol'skoye in the Makarov district west of Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, it said.

The area lies 130 kilometres south of the Chernobyl nuclear power station, where an explosion and fire in April released radiation and led to the evacuation of more than 100,000 people.

Selskaya Zhizn said 7,250 houses were to be built by October to accommodate evacuees from the 30-kilometre security zone around the stricken power plant.

A total of 2,500 houses and numerous cultural facilities had been constructed to date, it added.

Sweden assails nuclear power

Meanwhile Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson has told a rally of workers that the Chernobyl accident showed that nuclear power must be abolished.

"Nuclear power is one of the greatest threats to our environment," Mr. Carlsson said Sunday, speaking to 2,000 people gathered for a labour rally in Stockholm.

He said the April 26 Chernobyl nuclear accident "forced us to drastic measures that seem strange and frightening," and "made it very clear to us what kind of catastrophic consequences a nuclear accident could lead to."

"We are strengthened in our beliefs that nuclear power must be gotten rid of," Mr. Carlsson said.

Sweden was the first country outside the Soviet Union to be contaminated with fallout from Chernobyl. It disclosed the existence of the contamination before the Soviet Union admitted there had been an accident.

In the aftermath of the disaster, Swedes were warned against drinking rainwater and eating various plants, and cattle in some areas were kept indoors for weeks because of radiation in pastures.

Authorities have ordered the slaughter later this year of thousands of reindeer in northern Sweden. The animals, a major source of income to Lapp herders, have become contaminated by eating radioactive lichen and other plants.

Mr. Carlsson's remarks were similar to ones he made in an Aug. 1 speech to a congress of Christian Social Democrats in Sweden.